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Decatur and Macon County

ILLINOIS

A Record of Settlement, Organization, Progress and Achievement

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HON. WILLIAM E. NELSON
Editor

"Local history is the ultimate substance of national history."—Wilson

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J. Millikin

BIOGRAPHICAL

JAMES MILLIKIN.

Plain and unpretentious in manner, James Millikin's breadth of vision and loftiness of ideals gave him a foremost place in Decatur's citizenship. This was not alone by reason of his success which, however, was notable, but also by reason of a humanity which found its expression in its helpfulness toward those who deserved assistance and his benefactions as manifest in liberal contributions to church, charity and education. The Millikin National Bank is a monument to his business enterprise; the Millikin University a monument to his public spirit. If there could be gathered in one assemblage the men who owe their present success to the timely assistance of Mr. Millikin, the number would be astonishingly large. His aid was not only of a material character, but also at times constituted the needed word of advice or counsel that was the outcome of his own clear judgment and broad experience.

Mr. Millikin was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, August 2, 1827. He was always loath to give an account of himself, and thus are lacking many points which would prove of interest in his life history. His youthful days were spent in his father's home, his environment being that of the farm and the district school in which he acquired his early education. A desire for broader learning, however, prompted him to eagerly take advantage of the opportunity for attending Washington College, of Pennsylvania, where he continued his studies for three years. Many members of the Millikin family were representatives of the medical fraternity, and it was hoped and believed by his family that James Millikin might determine upon the medical profession as a life work, but his views did not coincide with the family wish, as he believed that his talents lay in other directions. To the west with its limitless opportunities he turned his attention. He realized the fact that the broad and rich Mississippi valley must eventually become thickly populated as the tide of emigration was steadily flowing in that direction. To Illinois he therefore made his way in 1848, and choosing Danville, Vermilion county, as his place of location, turned his attention to the livestock business, raising, purchasing and trading in stock of all kinds. He also rented farms upon which he pastured and fed his stock, and in control of his business interests showed keen

discernment, excellent executive ability and unfaltering enterprise. There early came to him a realization of the fact that earnest labor, intelligently directed, constitutes the safest foundation upon which to build success, and throughout his entire life he remained a busy man. Even in his later years when liberal success crowned his efforts, he had no idle hours, for when business did not claim his attention, reading and travel were entered into with the same zest that he gave to commercial and financial problems.

Very early in his business career Mr. Millikin came to recognize opportunities that others passed heedlessly by. He saw that land must naturally rise rapidly in value as the state became thickly settled, and anticipating this increase in property valuation, he made extensive and judicious investments in Illinois and southwestern Iowa, securing much of his land for a dollar or a dollar and a quarter per acre. He was the original owner of the tract upon which the town of Bement, Illinois, now stands, and by purchase there came into his possession many acres of broad prairie upon which no improvements had been made, but which in due course of time commanded a high market price.

Decatur, too, showed the usual signs of growth and development, and in fact seemed imbued with a spirit of enterprise and progress that promised well for the future. Accordingly Mr. Millikin turned his attention to this city, of which he became a resident in 1856, remaining here until his death, which occurred fifty-three years later. He did not change his occupation with his residence, however, but continued to deal in lands, city real estate and livestock, thus becoming recognized as one of the prosperous and enterprising men of Decatur.

It has been said that Mr. Millikin reached Decatur with seventy-five thousand dollars which he had made in the previous six years. This was a fortune for those days, and when some of the citizens learned the sum of his capital they approached him with the proposition that he should engage in banking here. At or shortly before that time the banking business in Decatur was not flourishing. Financial institutions had been established, but had failed. This mark of confidence in Mr. Millikin was appreciated by him, and although he knew nothing from practical experience about the banking business, by that time he had become cognizant of his own capacities and powers in the business world, and he believed that he could master the intricacies of banking as other men had done. In 1860, therefore, the Millikin Bank, then a private institution, opened its doors for business. Its office was in the old Railroad Bank building on Merchant street, and over the door was the sign, "James Millikin, Banker." The Railroad Bank had failed a short time before, and Decatur's thirty-eight hundred people had had their confidence in banking institutions somewhat shaken. Mr. Millikin's efforts, however, were followed with a measure of success that encouraged him to continue in the business. In 1863 he admitted J. Q. A. Odor to a partnership under the style of Millikin & Odor, but this relation was soon dissolved. His next partner, admitted in 1865, was Jerome R. Gorin, at which time the firm style of J. Millikin & Company was assumed. The two gentlemen remained as sole proprietors until 1881, when Mr. Gorin withdrew, the bank, however, continuing under the style of J. Milli-

kin & Company until 1897, when it was incorporated and became the Millikin National Bank. Mr. Gorin, however, was succeeded by his son Orville B. Gorin, who had been with the bank from 1865, and later Milton Johnson became a partner, but sold his interests to Parke Hammer in January, 1892. Four years later Mr. Hammer died, and soon afterward J. M. Brownback acquired an interest. These were all the partners Mr. Millikin had up to 1897, when the bank of J. Millikin & Company passed out of existence, and incorporated the Millikin National Bank.

While the name of the bank remained so long unchanged, its home has undergone many chances, both in location and dimension. The increasing business necessitated larger quarters, and the spirit of enterprise which has ever been characteristic of the institution, demanded a more modern equipment for the conduct of the business. The first removal was made in 1864 to the north side of East Main street, and in 1880 greatly improved offices were secured at the corner of East Main and Water streets. The tearing down of the old building and the erection of the new Millikin Bank block necessitated a removal in 1894 to temporary quarters, and on the 12th of February, 1910, the present building was occupied. With regard to size, convenience, impregnability of money vaults and safety deposit vaults, the bank is unequalled by any in Illinois outside of Chicago. The years between 1865 and 1881, on which latter date Jerome R. Gorin withdrew, constitute a period within which the bank's solid and lasting foundations were laid and during which it passed through its most trying vicissitudes. It was founded on such a safe, conservative policy, however, that it stood up under even the great financial stress of 1873. This was largely due to the faith and confidence which the public reposed in its owners. The growth of the business is indicated by the fact that while it was "next to nothing in 1860, in 1910 its business totaled five million dollars." This has been the result of steady growth and the wise business management and keen discernment of Mr. Millikin and his partners. In a contemporary publication appeared the following: "The dominating characteristics of James Millikin were honesty, intelligence, industry and prudence, with broad benevolence underlying all. And it is a mistaken idea, if such a notion exists, that his benevolence was almost wholly general and seldom shown in individual cases. But, while we know that in his personal capacity he helped numerous persons to whom he could not lend the bank's funds, it is as a banker we wish now to consider him. From the first to last he rang clear and true in answer to the prime question every careful would-be depositor silently asks in his heart of a banker: Is he honest? There was never a doubt of this at any time in his career. The next questions: Has he the requisite business sagacity? The necessary prudence and conservativeness? The sound, true judgment of men and affairs that a banker must have to succeed? were all answered, year after year, with increasing emphasis in the affirmative. Not in a day, nor a year, nor a decade, did he build to the top his reputation as a banker, but in a half century. And at no time in all these years did he lose the confidence of those who entrusted their money to his care. Mr. Millikin's personal investments in nearly every instance were remunerative. And the investments and loans of the bank as a rule were wisely and safely placed."

One of Mr. Millikin's forces of success as a banker was his keen understanding of men. He was seldom if ever at fault in judging an individual. Long after he had become one of the most successful bankers of Illinois he said that frequently he loaned men five times as much as they were worth because he believed in their ability to successfully control the business in which they were engaged. It was ever true of the record made by his bank that it never refused to pay on demand to any man who had a deposit there, and when, in the latter part of 1907, banks in all parts of the country were suspending active payment and giving clearing house certificates or other paper forms that were not exactly money, Mr. Millikin determined not to break the record which he had made in always giving cash on demand, and going into the market bought currency for which he paid a handsome premium. As it turned out, he did not need the money, but he was ready if he had been asked for it, and thus was qualified to maintain the clear record of the bank untarnished.

The building up of an institution of the character of the Millikin Bank would alone entitle its promoter to the definite consideration and high honor of his fellowmen. This was not all Mr. Millikin did, however, for Decatur. He financed many business projects which have been of material benefit to the city. He stood behind the Union Iron Works until it had passed the critical stage in its existence, securing the services of good men, and did much to make the enterprise one of the most successful manufacturing concerns of the city. Many other valuable industries were well started and prosperously conducted owing to his material assistance and wise counsel, and his well formulated plans. Many who received assistance from Mr. Millikin became strong men in the growth of the city, and the enterprises that employed their energies made the town. His own business career was not always one of continuous progress. In the earlier years it was one of continuous, arduous effort. He was forced to exercise the most watchful care to make the business successful, but always he held to the ideals which he set up for himself and never did he abandon a plan which his judgment sanctioned as the wisest course to follow.

A side light is thrown upon his personal character in the statement of one who knew him well: "Mr. Millikin became the richest man in Macon county, yet with most of us the first thought of the man, even after knowing him for years, was not that of a money-maker. He, of course, had to give much time to money-making, and yet he had much time to spare for something else. Those who met him in a social way were never bored by him by discussions on the art of acquiring wealth. He had something else to talk about and he talked well. Even at the bank, if you called to see him about a matter outside of the business of the house, he would sit down and talk for an hour and a half about anything and everything that had no possible connection with banking or money-making. He was indeed a most interesting companion."

Others have characterized Mr. Millikin as "the greatest benefactor Decatur ever had." He gave more than a half million dollars during his lifetime to benefactions. His gifts to Millikin University approximate four hundred and forty thousand dollars, and the Anna B. Millikin home received property and cash aggregating forty thousand dollars, while the Young Men's Christian As-

THE JAMES MILLIKIN RESIDENCE, IN "MILLIKIN PLACE," ON NORTH PINE STREET AT WEST MAIN

sociation, the Young Women's Christian Association, and different churches were the recipients of large sums. His plan for a university took definite form when, on the 13th of May, 1900, he made a formal offer to Dr. W. J. Darby, secretary of the Educational Society of the Cumberland Presbyterian church in Decatur, and Rev. A. W. Hawkins, pastor of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, to found an institution of learning in Decatur under the auspices of this denomination. It was while attending Jefferson College that he recognized the lack of facilities for higher education for the masses of young people, and resolved that some day, if he prospered, he would make provision to meet the need. It was in this way that he explained to President Roosevelt on the day of the dedication of the university the founding of the institution. He offered to donate Oakland Park as a site for the college and pay the sum of two hundred thousand dollars in cash provided the synods of Illinois, Indiana and Iowa of the Cumberland Presbyterian church would raise one hundred thousand and Decatur a similar amount for its support. On the 1st of January, 1901, he was notified that his conditions had been met. The work was vigorously prosecuted, and on the 1st of July, 1901, Dr. A. R. Taylor, formerly of Kansas State Normal School, was installed president of the institution. The buildings were dedicated June 4, 1903, with imposing ceremonies, the dedicatory address being delivered by President Theodore Roosevelt. Mr. Millikin was ever a most plain and unassuming man, who disliked notoriety, and even on the occasion of the laying of the corner stone of the main part of the university buildings, he refused to appear upon the platform, and after mingling quietly with the crowd for a few moments, he slipped away as quietly as he had come. The university, however, was the embodiment of a plan which he had long held and cherished, and he was greatly pleased over the surprising development of the school, not only in the structure of the buildings, but also in the equipment and exhibits of the technical and scientific departments. "In giving this institution of learning to the people James Millikin revealed the depth and breadth of his underlying benevolence. The university is a striking concrete proof of his spirit of philanthropy—philanthropy that partakes both of the individual and of the general."

Mr. Millikin married Miss Anna B. Aston, a daughter of Rev. S. M. Aston, and their first home was the property at William and Edward streets, now known as the Bohon place. In 1862 the property at Pine and Main streets was purchased and the home, with the improvements that have been added, make it one of the finest residences of central Illinois. Mr. Millikin passed away on the 2d of March, 1909, at the advanced age of eighty-two years. The Decatur Herald, in commenting upon him, said: "James Millikin possessed the breadth of vision that raised him above the men whose only claim to distinction is mere wealth. After he had acquired wealth, he looked about for ways in which to spend it. He saw much of his own country, and while foreign lands, which draw to their shores so many Americans, had little fascination for him, he kept his eyes open, and even in his declining years became a student of educational matters."

In the perspective of the years the work of James Millikin will grow larger rather than smaller. It is a well known fact that the people of mediocre ability

are forgotten while those who are of real importance to the community come to their real place as factors in the upbuilding of the city. The life record of James Millikin, faultless in honor, fearless in conduct and stainless in reputation, is indeed a most creditable chapter in the history of Decatur.

JAMES WILLIAM CARTER.

James William Carter, general manager of the Decatur Coal Company and prominently identified with the political and social life of the city, was born at Sullivan, Moultrie county, Illinois, June 5, 1861. He is a son of Charles A. and Polly Ann (Waggoner) Carter, who were both natives of Illinois. The parents came to Decatur in 1863, where the father engaged for a number of years in the hardware business. In 1890 he moved to Fresno, California, and remained there until his death, which occurred December 4, 1907. The mother and one daughter, Mrs. Nellie M. Severns, are still living at Fresno.

The subject of this review received his education in the public schools of Decatur and after laying his books aside became clerk in a hardware store, continuing for about a year, then engaging as clerk and bookkeeper for Overmeyer & Kaufman, dealers in real estate. He next took charge of the Peter Loeb Foundry Company and then was with the Union Iron Works, but after three years with the latter firm returned to the foundry company, with which he remained for nine months. We next find him for about a year in Chicago with George D. Haworth, manufacturer of corn planters. However, our subject was again attracted to his old home and he accepted a position with B. Z. Taylor in the oil mill business, but after sixteen months resigned and in 1885 became identified as bookkeeper with the Decatur Coal Company. In this business he showed special aptitude and after an experience of eight years he purchased stock in the company and was made vice president, later being elected secretary and treasurer and then general manager, which position he now holds, assisting in an important degree in developing the business of the company.

For many years Mr. Carter has been actively interested in political affairs. In 1895 he was elected alderman of the seventh ward and served for one term, filling the chairmanship of the water and light committee and discharging his duties with a fidelity that met the approval of citizens of all political parties. In 1904 he was appointed a member of the board of fire commissioners by Mayor George W. Lehman and served in that position for two years. His ability was further recognized in 1907, when he was elected city treasurer for a term of two years, and in that responsible position he made many new friends as a safe guardian of the city's finances and a public official with whom it was a pleasure to transact business.

On June 28, 1882, Mr. Carter was united in marriage to Miss Idora J. Patterson, of Decatur. Three children have blessed the union: Ralph M., now a practicing physician of Green Bay, Wisconsin; Alma Lois; and Neil T., who died June 23, 1896, at two and one-half years of age.

Wm. E. Nelson

Mr. Carter is actively identified with fraternal organizations and has been a member of Chevalier Bayard Lodge, No. 189, Knights of Pythias, since January 15, 1889. He has filled all the chairs in this lodge and was chairman of the local committee that secured the Pythian Home for Decatur. He is also a member of the state board that has charge of this home, which is one of the beneficent state institutions in which all Pythians of the city are interested. He is a leading member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to Macon Lodge, No. 8, and Beaumonoir Commandery, No. 9, and is past commander of the latter organization. He also holds membership in the Modern Woodmen of America and is a deacon of the First Baptist church of this city. A man of exceptional social qualities, Mr. Carter has many warm personal friends and he is recognized as a strong factor in political, religious and fraternal circles of the city. Whatever his hand or brain finds to do he does excellently, and few men in central Illinois have ever gained a higher position in the estimation of the people than the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this review.

WILLIAM EDWARD NELSON.

BY A. G. WEBBER.

This "History of Decatur and Macon County," without a biographical sketch of the editor of this work would be like The Pentateuch without Moses. The life work of this kind old man is so intimately and so prominently related to and interwoven with the development and the historic events of this community that one would not be complete without the other.

The father was of Irish and the mother of Scotch descent. A combination that has furnished this country with her most illustrious and substantial citizens. John Nelson, the grandfather, was born in Virginia. At an early age he was left an orphan, and when he grew to manhood he enlisted in the Revolutionary war. One of the last great battles in which he was engaged was the battle of King's Mountain in October, 1780. He emigrated to the state of Tennessee, where Richard Nelson, the father, was born. The latter studied law with Judge Hugh L. White and was married to Eliza McCampbell, the mother of William E. Nelson, who was born at Sparta, Tennessee, on the 4th of June, 1824. His mother was daughter of Andrew McCampbell, who emigrated from Scotland to Virginia; served in the war of the Revolution and then removed to Knox county, Tennessee.

Richard Nelson, the father, practiced his profession, the law, for more than twenty-five years at Sparta. He was a member of the Tennessee constitutional convention in 1834 and for a number of years was judge of the county court of Carroll county, Mississippi, to which county he removed in 1846, where he died in 1865.

William E. Nelson was admitted to the bar at Sparta in 1844, and on February 26, 1846, was married to Mary Ann Snodgrass, the daughter of Colonel James Snodgrass, of White county, Tennessee. He practiced law in his native county for about ten years and early in the year 1857, with his young wife, full of hope and ambition for their future, came north and selected De-

catur, then a thriving little city of about two thousand inhabitants, as their home. Mrs. Nelson died in November, 1876, and Mr. Nelson was again married to Mrs. Lucy Hollingsworth Montgomery, a daughter of Judge Jeptha G. Hollingsworth, of Elkton, Kentucky, and the widow of John T. Montgomery, Esq., of Decatur.

Only one of Judge Nelson's children lived to attain majority, the late Theodore Nelson, who removed to Chicago some twenty odd years ago and died in that city, December 17, 1909. He was for a succession of terms secretary of the democratic state central committee and had perhaps the most extensive acquaintance of any man in Illinois.

Judge Nelson found here in Decatur a most brilliant galaxy of lawyers, who practiced law at the Macon county bar. Such men as Charles Emmerson, Brower Bunn, Richard J. Oglesby, Sheridan Wait, Joel S. Post, the Tuppers and Arthur J. Gallagher. These distinguished lawyers frequently had associated with them in important litigations Abraham Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas, David Davis, Leonard Swett and other celebrated lawyers who then practiced law at the Macon county bar. These men set high ideals and furnished a real inspiration to other members in their profession.

The first railroads into this part of the country had just been built; land was everywhere being entered and settled up; industrial and commercial enterprises were projected and established; the busy echo of the saw and the trowel in all directions gave unmistakable evidence that a building boom was at high tide here, just before the panic of 1857.

Amid these great business problems and perplexing legal questions, Mr. Nelson began his life work in Decatur. At that time an armful of law books constituted a good working library. It was a time which called forth the purest love of justice and the strongest common sense in the solution and settlement of the business transacted by lawyers. He found here the opportunity of his life, to prove his absolute integrity and his superior legal ability. He was recognized by all who knew him for his uncompromising honesty and for his love of justice. He became the local attorney for the Toledo & Great Western Railroad, then of the Wabash and Illinois Central Railroads.

In 1870 Governor John M. Palmer appointed Harvey B. Hurd, M. Shaffer and William E. Nelson, commissioners, to revise the laws of Illinois under the constitution of 1870. He was elected to the Twenty-seventh general assembly of the Illinois legislature. During this session many of the laws, the most important and far-reaching in the interest of the people, were enacted. The work of this commission was the forerunner and became the foundation for the general revision of all the laws in Illinois, contained in the Revised Statues of 1874. So well did this faithful public servant discharge his duty, that the people elected him judge of the circuit court for the fourth judicial circuit of Illinois in June, 1877. After the expiration of his term as circuit judge, he was, in the fall of 1886, elected judge of the county court of Macon county.

Judge Nelson has been a lifelong democrat. At this time Macon county was overwhelmingly republican, and he had for his opponent one of the most popular young republican lawyers in Macon county. This gave the people of

Macon county the opportunity to express their appreciation and approval of the public services rendered by Judge Nelson. That the people can always be trusted was proven by the election of William E. Nelson.

Up to this time the county court was simply looked upon as a tribunal for the appeal of justice cases and for the probating of wills and the allowance of claims against estates. In this court Judge Nelson found a great field of work for his ripe judicial mind and for the care and conservation of the interests of those who are under disability. He inaugurated a new era in the practice in this court. A new system with clearly defined rules was established. Process was issued, juries impaneled, pleading rules published, days of trial fixed, and order of procedure observed, which gave dignity and orderly procedure, and commanded the attention and respect of the Macon county bar.

In this court, all estates are administered and settled. Widows, orphans, and all persons under legal disability have their rights determined there. All special assessments are submitted for hearing and confirmation in this court. It is a common law court of limited jurisdiction, to which misdemeanors are certified down and common law cases are appealed up to this court. In short, it is the "people's court." It was here where Judge Nelson became the judicial father of widows and orphans and the unwavering friend of the unfortunate and friendless.

After presiding in this court four years, the people of Macon county regardless of politics again demanded the reelection of Judge Nelson to the office of county judge in 1890. This was probably the greatest political triumph in the life of Judge Nelson. The democratic ticket was defeated by over one thousand votes, but the people demonstrated their gratitude by reelecting this public servant again by a handsome majority. Everybody said that no other man could have been elected on the democratic ticket at that time.

For real and genuine politeness, Judge Nelson has always stood high in Macon county. He is in a class of his own and no man has dared to question or to dispute his right to this claim. No one can truthfully question the honorable intentions and the absolute honesty of William E. Nelson. During more than half a century his life has been an open record to this community. As a lawyer, he was always loyal and true to his clients. In the capacity of a legislator and as a judge his official life has always been pure and above suspicion. If there is such a thing as a man being too good and too liberal to others, the life-work of Judge Nelson is the proof.

When he came here everybody was struggling for an existence; and he always thought of the welfare of others and maintained an abiding faith that somehow or other He who knows all things would take care of him. It has been well known by other members of the bar that Judge Nelson never charged a fee large enough for his services because he felt that it might be too large for his client. In this way he transacted a large amount of business for a small remuneration. He was liberal to a fault. This is one reason why Judge Nelson did not amass a great fortune from the practice of law. He earned several of them. The people of Macon county owe to Judge Nelson a great debt of gratitude for his exemplary life of unselfishness as a lawyer.

This great commoner of the people, like a majestic oak has been a moral strength in this community. God has set His seal of approval upon this life by making it one of the richest and happiest lives in Macon county. The world has been made purer, nobler and better by it. He has indeed been a true benediction by his uniform friendship and loyalty to the young lawyer and by his advice and counsel to those under disability or in misfortune. The publishers of this "History of Decatur and Macon County" are to be congratulated for their wisdom and good fortune in securing the services of so eminent and competent a man to supervise the excellent history here presented.

JOHN L. WADDELL.

John L. Waddell, justice of the peace of Decatur, whose decisions, strictly fair and impartial, have "won golden opinions from all sorts of people" was born at Chestnut, in Logan county, Illinois, a son of Clarence L. and Harriet E. (Simpson) Waddell. He comes of English lineage on the paternal side and of Irish ancestry on the maternal. His father devoted many years to farming and then retired to enjoy the fruits of his former toil. He is a native of Logan county, Illinois, while his wife was born in St. Clair county, this state.

John L. Waddell acquired his early education in the schools of Mount Pulaski and in the Decatur high school, in which he took the work of the senior year. He was graduated in 1900 and was chosen class orator, as he was also upon his graduation from the grammar school. Determining upon the practice of law as his life work, he began reading in the office and under the direction of the firm of Mills Brothers, well known attorneys of Decatur. His studies, however, were largely planned by I. R. Mills, who at that time was state's attorney. In further preparation for the profession Mr. Waddell matriculated in the law department of the State University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, being admitted to the junior class. Illness, however, compelled him to abandon his studies during the last half of the semester. This was in the fall of 1902. When he recovered his health he entered the Wesleyan University at Bloomington, Illinois, where he resumed his interrupted law course and was there graduated with the class of 1903. He was also elected class orator in that institution. In January prior to his graduation he secured a position in the billing department of the Mueller Manufacturing Company and subsequently held several clerical positions. After his second year with that firm he was made head of the law and patent department and continued with the Mueller Manufacturing Company until the 1st of May, 1909, when he resigned to enter actively in the field of politics. He is the youngest man ever elected to the position of justice of the peace in Macon county. He opened his court in the fire district over Shade's shoe store, which was totally destroyed by fire on the 22d of August, 1909. He then opened a temporary office in the St. Nicholas Hotel but within ten days secured an office on the south side of East Main street, almost opposite his present location. On the 1st of August, 1910, he removed

into the Busher building over Shade's shoe store, where he has a well equipped office and court room. His decisions show thorough consideration of the questions which come up for settlement and correct application of legal principles to the points at issue.

On the 17th of November, 1906, Mr. Waddell was married to Miss Helen G. Shuff, of Morgan county, Illinois, a daughter of Oliver S. and Mary (Johnson) Shuff. They have a bright little son, John L. Jr.,, who was born May 26, 1910. Mr. Waddell holds membership with Ionic Lodge, No. 312, A. F. & A. M.; the Elks Lodge, No. 401; the Tribe of Ben Hur, and the Improved Order of Red Men. His religious faith is indicated in his membership in the First Baptist church.

His interests are wide and varied and his support can always be counted upon to further progressive movements tending to promote the material, intellectual and moral progress of the community. His work in office is giving entire satisfaction by reason of the fairness and impartiality of his decisions, and although the youngest justice Macon county has ever had, his record for efficiency and ability is equal to that of any who has held the position.

HERBERT C. JONES, M. D.

Dr. Herbert C. Jones, who in the practice of his profession is giving especial attention to diseases of women and children, was born in Athens, Ohio, January 7, 1855, a son of J. Lindley and Ellen (Cameron) Jones, the former a native of Athens, Ohio, while the latter was born in the Shenandoah valley in Virginia. The father followed the pursuit of school-teaching in his native state in early manhood and later engaged in merchandising in Athens and in Greenfield, Ohio, but at the time of the Civil war put aside business considerations to become a member of the Union army and went with Sherman as far as Atlanta.

Reared in the state of his nativity, Herbert C. Jones continued his education in the public schools until graduated from high school at Greenfield, Ohio, with the class of 1871. He afterward attended the Ohio University at Athens, and later entered the Medical College of Ohio, from which he was graduated with the class of 1876. After completing the course he engaged in the drug business at Jacksonville and at Sanford, Florida.

While in the former city he was married, on the 3d of September, 1879, to Miss Florence Correa. They began their domestic life in the south but in 1881 returned northward, establishing their home in Cerro Gordo, Illinois, where Dr. Jones entered into partnership with Dr. Harsha for the practice of medicine. This relation was maintained until the latter's removal to Decatur, after which Dr. Jones continued alone in practice in Cerro Gordo until the fall of 1887, when, on account of the failing health of his wife, he returned to Florida and there spent two years. On the expiration of that period he opened an office in Decatur, forming a partnership with Dr. Catto, which continued for five

years. Actuated by a desire to attain the highest degree of proficiency possible, he has from time to time resumed his studies, having taken post-graduate work in the Rush Medical College in 1883, while at all times he has kept in touch with the onward march of the profession through his perusal of medical literature. He was for two years a partner in practice with Dr. W. J. Chenoweth under the firm style of Chenoweth & Jones. He has been local surgeon for the Vandalia Railroad Company for fifteen years and was associated with his former partner, Dr. Chenoweth, as surgeon for the Illinois Central Railroad and for the Peoria, Decatur & Evansville Railroad. While in Florida he was appointed assistant surgeon of the South Florida Railroad in 1887. He has been particularly successful in his treatment of diseases of children, and his obstetrical work has drawn to him the favorable attention of the public. He belongs to the American Medical Association, the Illinois State Medical Society, the Central District Medical Society and is an ex-president of the Decatur Medical Society.

In his fraternal relations Dr. Jones is a Mason and served as master of the blue lodge at Cerro Gordo, Illinois, and once as master of the lodge with which he affiliated while in Florida. He has attained high rank in Masonry and is now a noble of Medinah Temple of the Mystic Shrine in America. He also belongs to the Decatur Club and Country Club and enjoys the warm friendship of many of the members.

JOHN F. MATTES.

John F. Mattes occupies a central place on the stage of business activity in Decatur, where his intelligently directed efforts have found constantly broadening scope in the establishment and management of industrial and commercial enterprises which have been an element in the city's upbuilding as well as a source of individual success. A native son of Decatur, Mr. Mattes was born August 24, 1861, of the marriage of Frederick and Agnes (Luapold) Mattes, both of whom were natives of Germany and came to this country in early manhood and womanhood. The father spent some time in the east ere taking up his abode in Decatur. It was in this city that he formed the acquaintance of Miss Luapold and their friendship, ripening into love, was consummated in marriage. They have since resided continuously in this city save for a brief period of five years spent upon a farm not far distant. Mr. Mattes is still hale and hearty at the age of eighty-one years but in 1908 was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who passed away in April. He was one of the pioneer brick manufacturers of Decatur and early in the '60s was associated with Conrad Ammen in brickmaking. He continued in that field of business until eight years ago, when he retired, since which time he has spent his days in the enjoyment of well earned rest, the fruits of his former toil supplying him with all of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life.

No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of life for John F. Mattes in his youthful days. At the usual age he entered the public

schools and with zest entered into the pleasures of the playground as well as the duties of the schoolroom. His business training was received under the direction of his father, who instructed him in the methods of manufacturing brick and for many years the father and his two sons, John F., and Edward, were associated in business under the firm name of the Mattes Brick Company. At length the father retired, as previously stated, and the two sons now carry on the business. In 1900 the enterprise was incorporated and merged into the Decatur Brick Company, at which time John F. Mattes was elected president of the new organization, while Edward Mattes became its general manager. The company manufacture a mottled facing brick, which is a vitrified brick of very superior quality and the output is such as to make this one of the most important productive industries of the city. Brickmaking, however, has by no means constituted the scope of the business efforts and activity of John F. Mattes, a man of resourceful ability whose labors have constituted a beneficent force in the material progress of Decatur as well as a source of individual success. He was one of the promoters of the Manufacturers & Consumers Coal Company, which sank three shafts. The work through that time, however, was unsuccessful, as water stopped further proceedings. Much money was invested, therefore, before returns were received. In 1903 a shaft was put in south of the city and operations were begun, since which time a large amount of coal has been taken out and the business has since proved a profitable and growing undertaking. Mr. Mattes has served as one of the directors and as vice president of the company since its organization. He was for fifteen years a member of the firm of S. A. Tuttle & Company, engaging in street paving and sewer construction work, and in that connection executed important contracts. Into the field of real estate he has extended his operations on a large scale, handling all his own property. He has now three additions, known as the F. Mattes addition, the J. F. Mattes addition and the Lincoln Park addition, and in the development of these properties for the real-estate market he is contributing in substantial measure to the growth and improvement of Decatur. He is one of the city's most prominent and best known business men, his efforts at all times being actuated by a spirit of enterprise that knows no such word as fail and that regards an obstacle only as an impetus for renewed effort.

In 1884 Mr. Mattes was married to Miss Louise Johns, of Decatur, who died in 1886, leaving an only son, Carleton, who is now engaged in the printing business in this city. In 1890 Mr. Mattes wedded Miss Anna Roeder, of St. Louis, Missouri, and their children are Arthur, Violet, Adaline and Bernice.

The parents hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, in which Mr. Mattes is serving as a trustee. He is a republican in his political views but not to the extent of being bound by party ties. His support of any measure or candidate must have the sanction of his judgment and his judgment rests upon a public-spirited devotion to the general good. He is a member of several beneficial orders and is one of the prominent Masons of Decatur, having taken the various degrees of the York and Scottish Rites, while in the various bodies he has held office. He has likewise crossed the sands of the desert with the nobles of the Mystic Shrine. Engaging social qualities have rendered him a

popular citizen, while his extensive business interests have made him a prominent and representative one of Decatur. His record is written in the tangible terms of success and his prosperity has been the legitimate and logical result of his own labors, never including the sacrifice of another's interests.

ORVILLE B. GORIN.

It has been said that fortunate is the man who has back of him an ancestry honorable and distinguished, and happy is he if his lines of life are cast in harmony therewith. In person, in appearance and in character Orville B. Gorin is a worthy scion of his race. The family name has long been closely associated with financial interests in Macon county, and none have labored more faithfully to promote the stability of banking interests, and thus safeguard the welfare of depositors, than has Orville B. Borin, now president of the Millikin Bank. From the age of four years he has lived in Decatur, and throughout the intervening period his labors have constituted a force in the development of the city, while his name has been an influencing factor in securing support for any cause which he has espoused.

Mr. Gorin was born in Taylorville, Christian county, Illinois, January 25, 1849. His parents were Jerome R. and Eleanor E. (Fawcett) Gorin, of whom extended mention is made elsewhere in this volume. The son, Orville Gorin, was but four years of age when they removed to Decatur, and in this city he has since made his home. Like most boys of the period, he devoted much of his youth to the acquirement of an education, continuing his studies here until he had prepared for collegiate work. He then entered Knox College at Galesburg, Illinois, devoting some time to the further mastery of a course in that institution. He returned to Decatur and throughout his business career has been connected with the Millikin Bank. When he entered into active relations therewith it was conducted under the firm style of James Millikin & Company. Fifteen years served not only to secure him various promotions but also to bring him into the partnership, for he became financially interested in the business in 1880. The bank was established by James Millikin and the firm name of J. Millikin & Company was adopted in 1866, at which time Jerome R. Gorin became a partner. In 1880 he sold his interest to his son, Orville B. Gorin, and to Milton Johnson, the latter later disposing of his interest to Parke Hammer. In October, 1897, the bank was incorporated as the Millikin National Bank, with James Millikin as president, Orville B. Gorin, cashier; and J. M. Brownback, assistant cashier, the latter having been admitted to a partnership in 1896. In 1898 Mr. Gorin became vice president of the institution and in 1909 was elected to the presidency. He is thus today at the head of one of the oldest and strongest financial institution of this part of the state, the success of which is attributable in no small measure to his efforts, for through forty-five years he has been connected with the bank and during the entire period has endeavored to bring the institution up to the highest standard and to introduce every progressive

Orville B. Goin

measure that promotes the interest of the bank and at the same time safeguards the interests of the depositors.

In the Decatur Daily Herald appeared the following: "During the entire career of the Millikin National Bank it has demonstrated beyond a doubt that it is ably managed and that its affairs are in the hands of time-tried men who weigh well every act and who depart not from the well trodden path of financial safety. All investments are most carefully made and no unnecessary risks are taken, hence the marked favor it enjoys at the hands of many of the most conservative depositors. It does a general banking business, loans money on approved commercial paper, issues foreign and domestic exchanges and receives the deposits of the manufacturer, merchant, farmer and general depositor. Since its organization the bank has pursued the way of legitimate and conservative business, its able management avoiding the dangerous shoals upon which many banks have foundered, and today the Millikin National bank stands as solid and firm in the financial world as the most timid and skeptical depositor could possibly desire. It has been held high in the people's estimation for these years because of the unquestionable character of the men at its head and the sufficiency of the capital behind it. There is not an officer or director in this bank in whom the people have not the utmost confidence, and as a natural result it has always enjoyed a large patronage. This bank is a United States depository. Its present deposits are about three million dollars and loans and discounts are two millions, two hundred thousand. Its correspondent banks are the Hanover National Bank and the Winslow, Lanier & Company Bank of New York; Merchants Loan & Trust and First National Banks of Chicago; National Bank of Commerce, St. Louis; Merchants National Bank, Philadelphia; Merchants National Bank, Cincinnati; besides connections with leading banking houses throughout the United States."

While Mr. Gorin is preeminently a banker and business man, he has never allowed close attention to business to dwarf his finer sensibilities or warp his kindly nature. He is in full sympathy with the principles of the Masonic fraternity and holds membership in Macon Lodge, No. 8, A. F. & A. M., and Beaumonoir Commandery, No. 9, K. T.

He laid the foundation for a happy home life by his marriage, in 1872, to Miss Ella McClellan, a daughter of Edminston McClellan, a prominent and influential citizen of Decatur, who for twenty-eight years filled the office of county clerk of Macon county. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Gorin has been born a daughter, Gussie J., who has made extensive trips abroad with her parents, visiting many points of interest in the old world as well as in the new. Theirs is one of the fine homes of Decatur and its hospitality makes it one of the favorite resorts of their many friends.

A contemporary biographer has said: "Not to know Orville B. Gorin in Decatur is to argue one's self unknown, for his connection with business and social interests has been so extended that he stands today as one of the most prominent men of the city. His interest in his fellow men is sincere and arises from a humanitarian spirit which has prompted his support and cooperation with many movements and enterprises for the general good. He might perhaps have won high political honor, but he has always preferred to devote his ener-

gies to his extensive business interests and has been instrumental in winning for the Millikin National Bank a reputation which extends beyond the limits of the state. His career has ever been such as to warrant the trust and confidence of the business world and his activity in financial circles forms no unimportant chapter in the history of Decatur."

JAMES J. MORAN.

Some men are born with an aptitude for business and obstacles serve only to whet their ambition. They succeed in spite of difficulties and, starting at the bottom of the ladder, they climb to the top. As they advance their vision widens, their ability increases and they gain the title of captains of industry or leaders in the business world. They are the men who set the pace for their slower-going brethren and add vitality and spice to the ordinary affairs of life. To this class belongs James J. Moran, prominent as an undertaker, whose name is known among men in the same line of business all over the country.

Mr. Moran was born in Jersey City, October 2, 1868, and is a son of Mark W. and Mary (Doyle) Moran. On both sides of the house he is of Irish ancestry, the mother having been born in Ireland and the father in Scranton, Pennsylvania, of parents who came from the Emerald isle. Mark W. Moran from seven years of age has been identified with coal mining. He began as a breaker boy in the mines of Pennsylvania, passing through the various stages of advancement, and for forty years has been superintendent of the Decatur Coal Company's mines. He came to this city upon the invitation of the company, in 1870, as they desired him to superintend the sinking of a shaft in a coal mine, and he has ever since his arrival served in the capacity of superintendent.

The subject of this review attended the convent schools for several years and at the age of twelve years began his business career by working in a coal mine. After four years' experience under ground, he entered a grocery store in the city, his father buying a half-interest in the business after two years. Three years later the interest was disposed of and our subject gained his first experience in the undertaking business under John A. Reeves, driving a hearse at seven dollars and a half a week. Six months later his wages were raised to ten dollars per week and after he had still further demonstrated his qualifications he received fifteen dollars per week and also was given fifteen per cent on business secured. The name of the firm became Wykoff & Reeves and five years later Mr. Moran purchased the interest of Mr. Reeves, becoming sole owner of the business in 1892, although it was necessary for him at the time to borrow fifty-five hundred dollars from the bank in order to consummate the purchase. When Mr. Moran assumed charge he had only one employe upon the pay roll and his salary was ten dollars per week. To show the condition of our subject's finances, it may be stated that at the close of his first week's operations he found it necessary to borrow six dollar in order to meet the pay roll. Today he is one of the substantial moneyed men of Decatur, a stockholder of the Citizens National Bank, one of its large property owners and an acknowledged

leader in the National Funeral Directors Association. The present happy condition of Mr. Moran's affairs presents a striking contrast with the condition of fifteen or twenty years ago when he was struggling to secure a footing among business men in the community. Having once made a start, he pushed rapidly to the front. The territory of his operations is not confined to Decatur but extends as far as thirty miles in all directions from the city. For years past he has had charge of a number of the largest funerals in this part of the state and as a funeral conductor it is doubtful whether he has a superior in Illinois.

On September 17, 1891, Mr. Moran was united in marriage to Miss Katie A. Leahy, of Decatur, who became an efficient undertaker herself and assists her husband when there is call for a woman's services. Five children have been born of the union: Louis, now connected with the Citizens National Bank; Linus; Ambrose; Imelda; and James J., Jr.

Mr. Moran is identified with the republican party and an active worker in its cause in Decatur and Macon county. His religious belief is indicated by his membership in the Catholic church and fraternally he is connected with a number of beneficiary organizations. He has attained his success by an innate ability and an adaptation to a calling that requires tact and judgment, with both of which qulities he is abundantly supplied. His vocation also demands pleasing manners and business sagacity. In these respects also Mr. Moran excels. That he is popular throughout a wide region in Illinois is attested by the frequency with which his name is heard. Of a generous and sympathetic disposition, he has made a host of friends whom he truly cherishes and it requires no prophet to declare that the subject of this review will long continue to be a prime favorite in Decatur and Macon county.

PETER COFER.

Peter Cofer, residing at No. 412 East Condit street in Decatur, merits and receives the respect of his fellow townsmen. Loyal and courageous in the time of the nation's internal strife, energetic and progressive in the subsequent peaceful period, he has won for himself a creditable position among the residents of Macon county. He was born in Oberplace, Germany, on the 24th of August, 1837. His father, also a native of that country, was a farmer by occupation and remained in Germany until called to his final rest. The mother, who bore the maiden name of Margaret Holt, also spent her entire life in Germany. Of their family only two are now living, the sister of our subject being Marie, who still remains in the fatherland.

Peter Cofer was educated in the schools of Germany and remained upon his father's farm until twenty years of age, when he determined to seek a home and fortune in the United States and crossed the Atlantic to the new world. He made his way to Milwaukee, where he was employed at various occupations and afterward spent two years in Chicago. He then removed to Sullivan, Illinois, where he resided until 1898, when he came to Decatur and here has since lived.

Mr. Cofer was a resident of Sullivan at the time of the outbreak of the Civil war. He had watched with interest the progress of events in the south and when Fort Sumter was fired upon his patriotic spirit was aroused and he enlisted as a member of Company E, Twenty-first Illinois Infantry, on the 25th of May, 1861. The company was commanded by Captain Love. He served for three years and reenlisted as a veteran, becoming a member of the same company and regiment, with which he served until the close of the war, being mustered out at San Antonio, Texas, on the 16th of December, 1865. He received his final discharge at Camp Butler, Illinois, January 25, 1866. He had been for more than four years a faithful defender of the Union cause and had participated in various important engagements, including the battles of Perryville, Fredericksburg, Stone River, Chickamauga, the siege of Corinth, the Atlanta campaign, Kenesaw Mountain, the siege of Atlanta, Jonesboro, Franklin, Nashville and many skirmishes. On one occasion he was struck by a spent ball but otherwise escaped injury and at all times his military career was characterized by the utmost fidelity to duty, to which he never wavered though it stationed him on the firing line or upon the lonely picket line.

In September, 1866, Mr. Cofer was united in marriage to Miss Carolina Sawyer, who was born in Kentucky, April 7, 1843. Her parents were also natives of Kentucky, removing thence to Sullivan, Illinois, where the father died. The mother afterward became a resident of Decatur, where her death occurred. It was in this city that Mrs. Cofer passed away on the 22d of September, 1907. In the family were seven children. John F., who was born at Sullivan, January 30, 1868, is now in Canada. He married Ida Bowler, of Emden, and they had eight children: George, Ralph, Blanche, Glenn, Elven, Arthur and Amelia, all of whom are living; and Earl, who has passed away. Laura M., born May 2, 1873, in Sullivan, was married April 28, 1895, to Lincoln Powell, of Arthur, Illinois, who was born November 27, 1860, and died June 14, 1902. They were the parents of two children: Eva, born February 6, 1896, at Arthur; and Buell, born May 16, 1899, at Arthur. Charley, the third member of the family, was born at Sullivan, June 22, 1874, and married Nellie Hewett, of Lovington, Illinois. They have three children—Helen, Mildred and Hewett—and the family home is at Duquoin, Illinois. Frank, born at Sullivan, March 10, 1885, is living in Omaha, Nebraska. Omar C., born in Sullivan, March 17, 1888, resides in Jerome, Idaho.

For the support of his family Mr. Cofer long followed the occupation of farming and his labors were practical and progressive, bringing him in time a comfortable competence that now enables him to live retired. He is a member of Ionia Lodge, No. 312, A. F. & A. M., and of Dunham Post, No. 141, G. A. R. He also holds membership in the Cumberland Presbyterian church, while his children are members of the Central Christian church of Decatur. His political allegiance has ever been given to the republican party since he became a naturalized American citizen. During the period of his residence in Moultrie county he was for four years bailiff and also served as school director. Otherwise he has held no offices, preferring to concentrate his time and energies upon his business affairs. He is a man of good judgment and of enterprising spirit and his interest in the welfare and progress of his community has been

manifest in many tangible ways. As a soldier of the Civil war the country owes to him a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid and in matters of citizenship he has been as loyal to the country in times of peace as when he followed the old flag upon southern battlefields.

FREDERICK J. DUDLEY, M. D.

Dr. Frederick J. Dudley, practicing medicine and surgery in Decatur, where his ability is accorded recognition in a large patronage, was born in Niagara county, New York, in January, 1858. His father, John A. Dudley, is a native of Guilford, Connecticut, and has devoted much of his life to stock-raising. He is now in his eighty-third year and makes his home in Whitewater, Wisconsin. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Henrietta M. Wright, was born in the Empire state about 1830. They were the parents of five sons, of whom one died in infancy. One son became a prominent attorney of the state of Washington, where he died when about twenty-seven years of age. Three of the number are still living: I. W., who is engaged in railroad business; Dr. Dudley, of this review; and Frank A. Dudley, who has been interested in the building of large hotels in Peoria, Illinois, Syracuse, New York, and other places. He is also the senior member of the firm of Dudley, Grey & Noonan, leading attorneys of Niagara Falls.

At the age of ten years Dr. Dudley accompanied his parents on their removal westward to Whitewater, Wisconsin. He was reared upon the home farm and early formed habits of industry and integrity because of the lessons strongly impressed upon his mind by his parents. He supplemented his early education acquired in the public schools by study in Milton College, a school conducted by the Adventists at Milton, Wisconsin. As a youth he was interested in medicine but the opportunity to study did not come to him immediately following the completion of his literary course. Financial conditions in the family made it imperative that he provide the funds for his college training. He therefore learned shorthand, afterward engaged in teaching stenography and also served as an amanuensis in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He likewise acted as under-court reporter and through these avenues acquired a sum sufficient to enable him to take up the study of medicine which he pursued in the Chicago Homeopathic Medical College. He was graduated with the class of 1894 and immediately thereafter began practice in Cerro Gordo, Illinois, and was a leading practitioner in Piatt county until 1909, when he came to Decatur. Although he is one of the more recent additions to the medical fraternity of this city he has, nevertheless, established himself as a capable and successful representative of the profession here. His methods have ever been progressive and he keeps in touch with the advanced thought of the profession. He purchased the first automobile in Piatt county and was the first in that county to use it in practice. He has had four different cars, the original one being an Oldsmobile, while at the present time he drives a Mitchell. He has been examining physician for a number of lodges, also for the Peoria Life Insurance Company, of which he

is a stockholder. He is likewise a director of the Cerro Gordo State Bank and possesses excellent business qualifications as well as professional skill.

Dr. Dudley married Miss Nellie Knapp, a native of Wisconsin, and they have two children: Ethel, now the wife of Leonard Wise, of Rocky Ford, Colorado; and Erwin, a student in Hahnemann Medical College of Chicago. The son is a graduate of the high school of Cerro Gordo, Illinois, also attended St. John's Military School for two years and has pursued a two years' course in the Millikin University of Decatur. He is now a junior in Hahnemann.

Dr. Dudley belongs to the Elks lodge at Decatur and the Odd Fellows lodge and Modern Woodmen camp at Cerro Gordo. He is also connected with the Loyal Americans and the Court of Honor at Cerro Gordo and he attends the Grace Methodist Episcopal church. His has been an active life and in his profession he has been actuated by high ideals, performing every duty with a sense of conscientious obligation. He deserves much credit for what he has accomplished as he started in life empty-handed and is a self-educated as well as a self-made man. He now belongs to the Illinois Homeopathic Society and the American Institute of Homeopathy, the national organization of this school and American Medical Association and Decatur Medical society. His ability is pronounced and his service has been of marked value to the communities in which he has resided.

T. J. PRENTICE.

T. J. Prentice, well trained in commercial fields, is now president of the Linn & Scruggs Dry Goods & Carpet Company of Decatur, in which connection he is at the head of the leading establishment of this character in the city. His birth occurred in Hamilton, Missouri, April 10, 1870, and his education was acquired in the public schools of that city and in a business college at Galesburg, Illinois. He entered business life in the capacity of assistant cashier in the First National Bank of Hamilton, Missouri, where he remained until 1895, when he went to St. Louis, entering the house of Scruggs, Vandervoort & Barney, the leading dry-goods establishment of that city. He entered their service as bookkeeper and worked his way upward through intermediate positions, involving larger and larger responsibilities, until he became secretary of this important company. He was associated therewith until 1908. He assisted in organizing and arranging everything in the new building in St. Louis before coming to Decatur. On the 1st of January, 1907, however, in connection with J. R. Holt, he purchased the stock and business of the Linn & Scruggs store in Decatur and has since continued the business under the old firm name. The trade has increased to a considerable extent under the present management and they have continued the old reliable business principles of the house which has ever been based upon such old and time tried maxims as "there is no excellence without labor" and "honesty is the best policy." Mr. Prentice keeps in close touch with the trade, follows the most systematic methods in the conduct of the business and ever maintains a high standard in the personnel of the house, in the quality of goods carried and in the nature of the service rendered the public.

On the 13th of September, 1892, occurred the marriage of Mr. Prentice and Miss Minnie B. Johnson, of Hamilton, Missouri, and they have one son, Thomas J., Jr. Mr. Prentice is a member of the First Methodist Episcopal church and also belongs to the Decatur and Country Clubs.

His interests are broad and varied and in relation to the public welfare he stands as the champion of material, social, intellectual and moral progress. In business circles he enjoys the unqualified esteem of colleagues and contemporaries by reason of his progressive methods and his conformity to the highest standards of commercial ethics.

RICHARD LOUIS EVANS.

Among the names that deserve an honorable place in the history of Macon county is that of Richard Louis Evans, who was a valiant defender of the stars and stripes when the Union was in danger and as a business man and later as first librarian of the Decatur public library he demonstrated his ability to perform his part in times of peace. He was born at New Albany, Indiana, May 30, 1838, and was a son of John and Eliza (Clark) Evans, the father being a shipbuilder at New Albany.

The subject of this review received his preliminary education in the public schools and became a student at Asbury (now De Pauw) University, Greencastle, Indiana, from which he was graduated in 1859, at twenty-one years of age. Soon after his graduation he entered the United States naval service, with which he was identified for four years and four months, receiving his honorable discharge August 14, 1865. He was acting master's mate on the United States steamship Benton of the Mississippi squadron and later was assigned to the gunboat Abeona, where he remained until the boat was put out of commission with the close of the war at the navy yard at Mound City, Illinois.

At the close of the war Mr. Evans came to Decatur and was for several years salesman in the dry-goods store of A. Ruth, who conducted business on Merchant street. He next entered the railway postal service and for three years filled the position of postal clerk, running between Bloomington and Centralia, Illinois. We next find him connected with the book and stationery store of W. Scott Glore, of Louisville, Kentucky, but in 1874 he returned to Decatur and on August 6, 1875, was chosen the first librarian of the Decatur public library and immediately assumed the duties, for which he was remarkably well qualified. He had charge of the library and reading room until the time of his death, which occurred November 17, 1881, and through his able management the library became the most popular institution in the city.

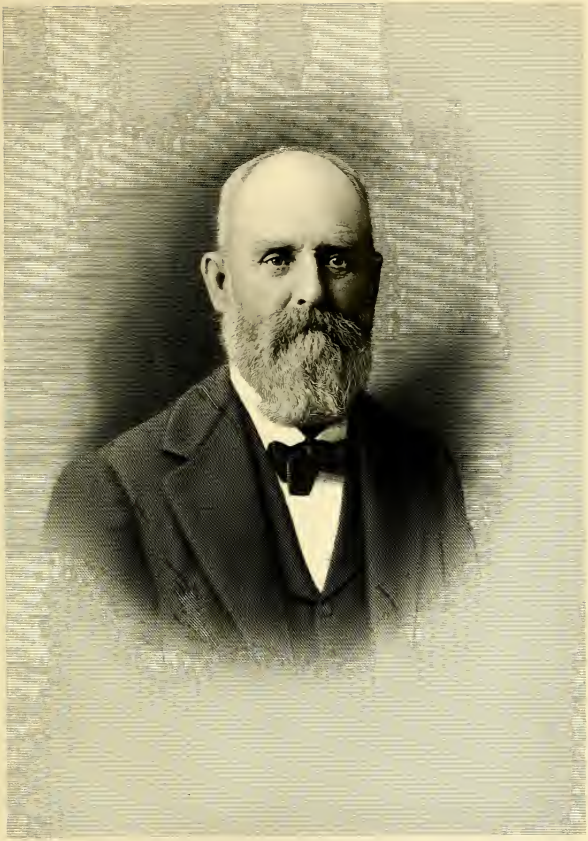
On May 22, 1867, Mr. Evans was united in marriage at Decatur to Miss Alice E. Glore, a daughter of Millburn and Sarah (Clark) Glore. Her father, who was a native of Virginia, went to Kentucky when a boy and became a merchant at Brownsborough, where he married Miss Sarah Clark, of that place. They came to Decatur with their family in 1858, and were the parents of eleven children, of whom Alice E. was the ninth in order of birth. She was

educated in the public and private schools of Decatur, and when her husband was appointed librarian she became his assistant. Upon his death she was elected librarian and has since occupied that position. Under her able management the library has grown steadily in all directions and meets the demands of a constantly increasing population.

Although Mr. Evans passed from mortal view nearly thirty years ago, his memory is warmly cherished by those who knew him. He left an enduring monument by his efficient services as librarian, establishing the system upon which the library has since been conducted, making it one of the most useful institutions of the kind in central Illinois. Politically Mr. Evans adhered to the republican party. He was a valued member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and also of the Christian church, in which he served in an official capacity and as teacher in the Sunday school. In his life he manifested many noble traits of character that gained for him the confidence and esteem of all with whom he was associated.

CHARLES N. DENISON, M. D.

Dr. Charles N. Denison was well known in Macon county throughout the years of his residence in Argenta and in Decatur. Through his professional service as well as in other relations of life, he gained a wide acquaintance and was the loved family physician in many households. He held to high ideals in his practice and ever made it a point to keep in touch with the advancement of the profession. In his later years his attention was given to general agricultural pursuits and in that field of business he displayed the same reliability, enterprise and integrity that characterized him in his professional life. Then came a period in which to enjoy the fruits of his former toil and at length he was called to his final home, his passing being deeply regretted by his many friends throughout the county. He was born in Middlesex County, Connecticut, September 15, 1836, and there lived to the age of eighteen years. On leaving New England, he at once made his way westward to Illinois, settling first at Bloomington, while subsequently he came to Macon county and for a few years was engaged in teaching school here. He took up the study of medicine under Dr. W. J. Chenoweth, one of the well known physicians of Decatur, and afterward pursued a two years' course at the College of Medicine and Surgery in Cincinnati, thus becoming well qualified for the onerous and responsible professional duties which devolved upon him. He put aside all business and personal considerations, however, when the Civil war was in progress that he might aid his country in preserving the Union. He enlisted in 1861, joining the Eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry under Colonel Richard Oglesby. He entered the service as assistant surgeon and later was made surgeon of the regiment, in which capacity he served until the close of the war, when he was honorably discharged. He did important service for the wounded and sick soldiers and many have reason to remember him with gratitude for his kindly ministrations and ready professional aid.



C. N. Denison

When the war was over, Dr. Denison returned to Illinois, settling in Cerro Gordo, where he engaged in the practice of medicine for a short time. He was married in 1867, at Latham, Illinois, to Miss Drusilla A. Ellis, a native of Indiana, who was there reared. Following their marriage Dr. Denison and his wife became residents of Newberg, Illinois, where he continued in the practice of his profession until his removal to Argenta, being one of the first to locate here. In 1881 he removed to Decatur, that his son might have the advantage of the better schools of the city. His wife died in Decatur in 1886 and the following year Dr. Denison returned to his old home in Argenta. He then retired from his professional duties and took up stock-raising and farming until 1907, when he retired from all business. For his second wife he chose Mary McNeal. He died in Argenta, July 25, 1910, and was buried with Masonic honors, as he was long a faithful and exemplary representative of the craft having taken all the degrees in Masonry several years before except the thirty-third. His widow and son Charles A. Denison still survive him.

CAPTAIN ROBERT P. LYTLE.

No resident of Decatur has been for a longer period or more continuously connected with the postoffice of the city than Captain Robert P. Lytle. As postmaster and assistant postmaster he has been active in the management of the mail service in this city for almost thirty years, and his record in this connection is characterized by the same spirit of loyalty that marked his service as a soldier on the battlefields of the south during the Civil war. His long residence in Decatur, his close association with its business and official interests, his activity in politics and his loyalty to his friends and to every cause which he espouses, have made him so uniformly esteemed and respected that the record of his life cannot fail to prove of interest to the readers of this volume.

The Lytle family was founded in America in colonial days and John Lytle, the great-grandfather, joined the colonial army soon after the outbreak of the Revolutionary war. He was the father of John Lytle, Jr., and the grandfather of Andrew Lytle, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1806, and in early life learned and followed the tanner's trade. He afterward took up the occupation of farming and, in keeping with the military spirit that has frequently been manifested in the family, he joined the Pennsylvania Militia and served as an officer. He was married in his native state to Miss Nancy McKay, who was born in Pennsylvania and died in Waterford, that state, in 1892. She had long survived her husband, who passed away in 1876.

Their son, Robert P. Lytle, was born in Erie county, Pennsylvania, July 8, 1837. One seeing him in the postoffice, active in the exercise of the duties which devolve upon him, would hardly suspect, however, that he has reached the seventy-third milestone on life's journey. The exercise and activity keep him alert, and his interest in affairs of public moment has never in the least abated. He began his education in the schools of his native city and later spent a year as a student in the Waterford Academy, at Waterford, Pennsylvania. He

started in business life as a clerk in a general store, owned by the Sharon Iron Company at Clay Furnace, Pennsylvania, where he remained for three years. Removing to Buffalo, New York, he there qualified for active service in the business world by pursuing a course in a commercial college in the winter of 1857-58. He then came to Illinois and secured the position of bookkeeper in a general store at New Boston, Mercer county, but when the call to arms came his patriotic spirit was aroused and the Union soon numbered him among its loyal defenders. He was enrolled on the 20th of August, 1861, at Springfield, as a member of Company G, Twenty-seventh Illinois Infantry, under the command of Captain Southward and Colonel N. B. Buford. The regiment was sent to Cairo, Illinois, in September, and assigned to the brigade command of General John A. McClernand. Captain Lytle participated in a number of engagements and skirmishes including the battle of Belmont, Missouri, November 7, 1861. Later the regiment was detached from McClernand's brigade and, assigned to the gunboat flotilla, participated in the siege of Island No. 10. His military history has been written as follows: "He took part in the siege of Corinth in June, 1862, was at Nashville, Tennessee, from September 11th to November 23d, and during this time participated in the battle of La Vergne, followed by the battle of Stone River. On the 19th and 20th of September, 1863, he was in the battle of Chickamauga and in the battle of Missionary Ridge on the 25th of November, 1863, at which place he was wounded in the right leg and right arm. In consequence he was sent to the hospital. When he had partially recovered from his wounds he rejoined his regiment at Loudon, Tennessee, and participated in the battles of Rockyface Ridge, Resaca, Burnt Hickory and Kenesaw Mountain. In the last engagement, June 27, 1864, he lost his left arm. On the 20th of September, 1864, he was honorably discharged with his company and regiment and, being mustered out of service at Camp Butler, Springfield, Illinois, returned to Pennsylvania."

In the winter of 1864-5 Captain Lytle remained in Pennsylvania, after which he went to Nashville, Tennessee, as the representative of the American Bridge Company. When the business of that corporation was closed out there he returned to the north and in 1866 came to Decatur. Here he has since resided and has been closely associated with the welfare and interests of this city. For six and a half years he occupied the position of bookkeeper with William Lintner & Company, and then established business on his own account, forming a partnership with Thomas T. Roberts, under the firm style of Roberts & Lytle, for the manufacture of coffins. The business, carried on under the name of the Decatur Coffin Company, was continued until 1875, when Captain Lytle disposed of his interest to enter upon the duties of postmaster, to which position he had been appointed by President Grant. Reappointment under different presidential administrations continued him in the office for twelve years, and he retired from the position as he had entered it—with the confidence and regard of all concerned. In 1887 he once more became connected with commercial interests as senior partner of the Lytle & Eckles Hardware Company, and for five years continued in that position. They sold out in 1893 and soon afterward Captain Lytle received the appointment of assistant postmaster from William F. Calhoun. He has since continued in that position, so that his con-

nection with the office as postmaster and assistant covers almost three decades. His course has ever been above question, being characterized by the utmost fidelity to duty and as well by promptness and efficiency in the execution of the work of the office.

As is indicated by his official service, Captain Lytle is a republican, recognized as one of the leading workers in the ranks of the party in Macon county. He has done not a little to shape its policy and guide its activities. He was for ten years chairman of the county republican central committee and for three years was township and city collector.

Captain Lytle was married January 12, 1864, to Miss Elizabeth Smith, of Waterford, Pennsylvania, a daughter of George and Mary Smith. Their children are: Harry Wells, of Kansas City, Missouri; Frank A., of Decatur; Robert B., who died in 1891; and Edith May, the wife of Craig Smith, of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Their home has ever been celebrated for its warm-hearted hospitality which has been greatly enjoyed by their extensive circle of friends. They are among the oldest as well as among the most active and faithful members of the First Presbyterian church, and Captain Lytle has long been a prominent member of the Grand Army post at Decatur. He was here when the organization was founded and of the original post he has served as commander. In 1888 he was honored with the position of senior vice commander of the department of Illinois and has frequently been a delegate to various national encampments.

He is a gentleman of liberal culture, of broad mind and of progressive spirit, who has learned to correctly follow life's contacts and experiences and glean from each the lesson that it contains. He has long been a forceful factor in the community and his influence has ever been on the side where progress is conserved and truth and right supported.

GUS A. AHRENS.

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Gus A. Ahrens, a prominent and successful representative of the business interests of Decatur, has for the past twenty-three years carried on an extensive mineral bottling and manufacturing enterprise here. His birth occurred in Davenport, Iowa, on the 14th of August, 1858, his parents being Edward A. and Elizabeth M. (Paulsen) Ahrens. The father was born in Hamburg, Germany, on the 4th of July, 1811 while the mother's birth occurred in Kiel, Germany, October 28, 1825. Their marriage was celebrated in the fatherland in 1847. In 1855 Edward A. Ahrens emigrated to the United States, locating at Davenport, Iowa, where he successfully carried on business as a wholesale manufacturer of sash, doors and blinds until called to his final rest on the 30th of September, 1901. His widow, who still survives, yet makes her home in Davenport.

Gus A. Ahrens attended the schools of his native city until thirteen years of age and then secured a position as grocery clerk, being thus employed for four years. On the expiration of that period he embarked in business on his own account as a tea and coffee merchant, conducting an enterprise of that

character for twelve years and winning a gratifying measure of prosperity by reason of his able management. It was with the idea of taking up his abode in Lincoln, Nebraska, that he disposed of his interests in this connection. On the 17th of May, 1887, however, he came to Decatur, Illinois, to visit with friends for several days and was so well pleased with the place that he abandoned all his previous plans and decided to become a permanent resident of this city. He purchased the mineral bottling and manufacturing concern of his father-in-law Fred Kuny, and has since conducted the enterprise in a manner that has insured its continuous and substantial growth. He now enjoys an extensive and profitable trade and is widely recognized as one of the leading and representative business men of Decatur.

Mr. Ahrens has been married twice. On the 10th of June, 1886, he wedded Miss Sophia Kuny, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred D. Kuny, both of whom were natives of Germany and are now deceased. They took up their abode in Decatur at an early day and became widely and favorably known here. Mr. Ahrens lost his first wife on the 7th of May, 1907, and on the 10th of March, 1910, he was again married, his second union being with Miss Alice Latsbaugh, of Indianapolis, Indiana. Her parents are J. C. and Ida (Smalley) Latsbaugh, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Decatur, Illinois. Her father is connected with the Barry Saw Company of Indianapolis.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Ahrens has supported the democracy, believing firmly in its principles. In 1895 he was elected alderman of the fourth ward and during his two years' service exercised his official prerogatives in support of all measures instituted to promote the improvement and progress of the city. At the present time he is serving as humane officer of Macon county and plans are now under way for the organization of a society to carry on the work in this connection. Fraternally he is identified with the Royal Arcanum and the Knights of Pythias, having held nearly all of the offices in the latter organization. He is likewise an active member of the United Commercial Travelers and the Travelers Protective Association. His wife is a devoted and consistent member of the Baptist church. Mr. Ahrens has always been found loyal and faithful to his friends, who recognize his true worth, and he is held in high regard by his social as well as his business associates.

ROBERT MORRIS.

Robert Morris, who is now living in honorable retirement at No. 333 West North street in Decatur, is a native of New Jersey, his birth having occurred at Seaville, Cape May county, on the 1st of August, 1838. He spent the first fourteen years of his life in the east and then accompanied his parents on their removal to Sangamon county, Illinois, in 1852. His father, William Morris, also a native of New Jersey, was born in 1806 and having arrived at years of maturity, wedded Eliza Hughes, whose birth occurred in the same state in 1809. They were the parents of six children: Robert, whose name introduces this record; Albert, who died at the age of two years; Pauline; Lydia; Albert,

the second of the name, who died at the age of twenty-five years and was buried near Springfield; and William R. The father died in Sangamon county in March, 1892, after a residence there of over forty years. His widow survived him until 1902, and both were laid to rest in the cemetery in Farmingdale, Illinois, where the grave of their son Albert had previously been made.

Robert Morris was reared on the old home farm in Sangamon county amid pioneer conditions and environments. The public schools afforded him his educational privileges and he aided in the work of the fields when not busy with his text-books. After arriving at years of maturity he was joined in wedlock, in Sangamon county, to Miss Mary E. Lyman, the marriage being celebrated on the 15th of November, 1867. Immediately after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Morris removed to Macon county, settling on a farm on section 24, Austin township. He bent his energies to the development and cultivation of the place, added to it many modern improvements, and was soon recognized as one of the most enterprising and progressive farmers of the community. Year by year he carefully tilled the fields until at length he won the success that enabled him to put aside active business cares and live retired, his capital being sufficient to supply him with all of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Morris were born four children: Etta Caroline, who died at the age of twenty-five years; William Ezra, who died at the age of eighteen years;Robert Lyman, a practicing physician of Decatur; and Frank Hayes. While upon the farm, Mr. Morris filled the office of supervisor, but has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking. His political support is given to the republican party. Both he and his wife are active and devoted members of the Methodist church, in which he is serving as class leader, while in the various departments of the church work he takes active and helpful interest.

ROBERT LYMAN MORRIS, M. D.

Dr. Robert Lyman Morris is one of the younger members of the medical profession in Decatur, yet his age seems no bar to his success. Gradually he has worked his way upward and is now accorded a good patronage. He was born in Austin township, this county, on the 6th of December, 1879, and is a son of Robert Morris, a retired farmer of Decatur, who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume. His early education was acquired in the district schools while spending his youthful days upon his father's farm, but ambitious to enjoy more advanced opportunities, he pursued an academic course, spending a year in the academical department of the University of Illinois, and then one year as a university student. Entering the medical department of the state university, he there pursued his preliminary studies in preparation for the profession, and afterward entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Chicago, where he completed the regular course and was graduated with the class of 1904. He also did clinical work in Chicago, and his experience in that di-

rection greatly broadened his knowledge and qualified him for the duties which he assumed on leaving college.

Immediately following his graduation, Dr. Morris located for practice in Decatur, where he has since remained. Everything which tends to bring to man the key to the complex mystery which we call life claims his interest, and as the years go by he is constantly promoting his efficiency by reason of his broadening experience and his research work. He keeps in touch with the progress of his profession through his connection with various societies for the dissemination of knowledge concerning the practice of both medicine and surgery. He belongs to the Decatur Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. In addition to his private practice he is examining physician for the Massachusetts Mutual Insurance Company and the Pioneer Life Insurance Company, and is local surgeon for the Illinois Traction Hospital Association.

In 1909 Dr. Morris was married to Miss Cleona Johnston, a native of Christian county, Illinois, and they are widely and favorably known socially in Decatur. Dr. Morris belongs to Macon Lodge, No. 8, A. F. & A. M. He is actuated by a laudable ambition in his chosen life work, and also by a sense of conscientious obligation which renders him most careful in the diagnosis of cases. His work is being attended by excellent results, and he well merits the liberal practice that is now his.

GEORGE W. MUELLER.

It has often been pointed out that real life presents experiences of more vital interest than any stories that have ever been drawn from imagination. The truth of this statement is illustrated by contact with business men who have risen from a humble position to places of large responsibility. Ambition, pluck and perseverance have carried many a boy to financial success, and it has been largely through the application of these important principles that George W. Mueller of Decatur occupies the place he holds today as head of one of the prosperous wholesale grocery establishments of central Illinois.

He was born at Huntington, Indiana, October 2, 1863, and is a son of Francis and Eugenia (Roeder) Mueller. The father was born near Berlin, Germany, and the mother in Switzerland, but she lived most of her life before coming to America at Fulda, Hesse-Cassel, Germany. The parents settled at Newark, Ohio, in 1850, and there Francis Mueller conducted a music store. Later he moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan, and thence to Huntington, Indiana, finally coming to Bloomington, Illinois, in 1869. He departed this life in 1892 at the age of seventy-two years. The beloved mother was called away at the age of sixty-five, in 1886.

The subject of this review possessed good opportunities for education, and was graduated from the Bloomington high school in 1876. He was then only thirteen years of age, and was the youngest graduate that has ever completed the course of that school. He attended the Illinois Wesleyan University until

1880, and then began his active career as errand boy in the wholesale grocery house of J. S. Roush & Sons. Upon the death of Mr. Roush in 1886 the business was disposed of and Mr. Mueller removed to Chicago, where he became connected with the wholesale house of Franklin MacVeagh & Company. There he had charge of various departments, but his health giving out from over-application, he resigned in 1898. In connection with Cyrus E. Wheeland and F. M. Young, he later established the wholesale grocery house of Mueller, Young & Wheeland, at Decatur, which from the beginning has been a marked success. Mr. Young's interest was purchased by E. M. Platt and C. M. Luling, of Manitowoc, Wisconsin, and the name of the firm was changed to Mueller, Platt & Wheeland Company. The capital stock paid in was twenty thousand dollars. This has been increased to one hundred thousand dollars, and the surplus allowed to remain in the business is fifty thousand. The house carries a stock of about one hundred thousand dollars and has twelve men on the road, covering a territory of about one hundred and fifty miles around Decatur. The annual sales have shown a gratifying growth from year to year, and at the present time amount to about seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

On November 26, 1891, Mr. Mueller was united in marriage to Miss Irene Moon, a daughter of A. J. Moon, a prominent landowner and stock-raiser of Lexington, Illinois. Mr. Mueller is an adherent of the republican party, believing that its principles are best adapted to promote the permanent interests of the country. He is a member of the First Methodist church of Decatur, and socially is identified with the Masonic fraternity, the Tribe of Ben Hur, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Decatur Club. He is highly respected for his sterling qualities, and during thirty years in active affairs he has made many friends among his business associates, who have always found him to be a man of the strictest integrity and one whose word is as good as his bond. He is blessed with a sound judgment and broad sympathies and possesses the attributes that belong to the good citizen. No enterprise that aims to promote the public welfare fails to receive his hearty support, and therefore he is justly numbered among the progressive and useful men of Decatur.

EDWARD D. MATTES.

Edward D. Mattes needs no introduction to the readers of this volume. The name of Mattes has long been a synonym for brick manufacture in Decatur and, entering this field of business in early life, Edward D. Mattes has so directed his efforts that energy and capable management have brought him the experience and ability that place him as one of the most prominent representatives in this line of activity. He was born in this city November 14, 1866, a son of Frederick Mattes, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume in connection with the sketch of John F. Mattes. At the usual age he became a pupil in the public schools and passed through consecutive grades until he left the high school to take up the practical lessons to be learned in the school of experience. His training in the work of brickmaking then began and he

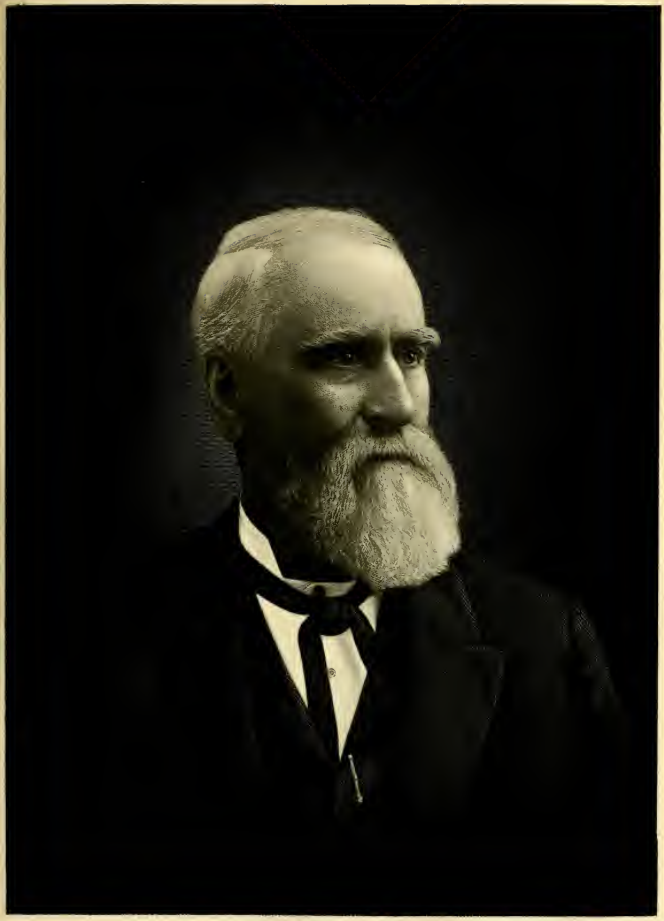
continued his association with his father in business until the latter's retirement. At the age of twenty-one he became a member of the firm and the enterprise was conducted under the style of Mattes & Sons for a number of years, or until it was absorbed by the incorporation of the Decatur Brick Company. Edward D. Mattes becoming general manager of the greater concern. He has since acted in that capacity and his capable conduct of the business is manifest in its splendid success. His practical knowledge of every detail of the business well qualifies him for executive control. He knows the value of all the products used and the possibilities of the market and is quick to adopt every idea that leads to improvement in the product or to the legitimate extension of the trade. He is also a stockholder in the Manufacturers & Consumers Coal Company.

In 1895 Mr. Mattes was married to Miss Emma L. Roeder, of St. Louis, Missouri, and they are well known in the social circles of the city and are devoted members of the First Methodist Episcopal church, in which Mr. Mattes is serving as steward, while in the various departments of church work both he and his wife are actively interested. He belongs to Ionic Lodge, No. 312, A. F. & A. M.; Macon Chapter, No. 27, R. A. M.; and Beaumonoir Commandery, No. 9, K. T. He is also connected with Mohammed Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., of Peoria, and both he and his wife belong to the Eastern Star lodge in Decatur. His political views are in accord with republican principles and he is always mindful of the duties and obligations of citizenship yet never an aspirant for office. His business affairs, his social relations and his home interests claim his attention and in all these he measures up to the full standard of high and honorable manhood.

THE POWERS FAMILY.

The history of Macon county would be incomplete without extended reference to the Powers family. Through more than six decades the name has figured in connection with the development of this section of the state. Orlando Powers came to Decatur in 1849. In matters of public concern as well as in the conduct of large business enterprises he played a leading role on the stage of action. He seemed ever to follow the mandate, "turn thy defeats into victory; make thy hopes a reality; never let thy personal interest constitute the bounds of thine horizon, but reach out for the larger, uplifting things of life." Today there is no name spoken in Decatur with greater honor and reverence than that of Orlando Powers. His business ability was proven in the wonderful success which he achieved; his honor in the rectitude of the methods which he followed; his patriotism in his support of municipal and national projects for the general good; his charity in the generous division which he made of his wealth to the unfortunate.

He was a comparatively young man—thirty-seven years of age—when he came to Decatur, and from that time forward was closely associated with the business development of the city along those lines which have led to its substantial upbuilding. Already his experiences had covered a wide range, and had developed in him the power of quick and accurate judgment and keen dis-



Orlando Powers

crimination. He was born near the village of Charlton, Saratoga county, New York, May 21, 1812, and pursued his education in the common schools, which he attended through the winter months, while the summer seasons were devoted to the work of the home farm. He was sixteen years of age when his brother William requested that he should go to Havana, Cuba, and become his assistant in business there. Proceeding to New York, he became a passenger on the schooner Helen, which encountered a severe storm three days later and was wrecked. The rescue of Mr. Powers was certainly marvelous. He and Captain Tucker, who commanded the vessel, together with three of the sailors, drifted upon the open sea for eleven days, clinging to the disabled hulk, part of which was out of water. They subsisted upon a scanty supply of sea biscuit and raw potatoes, and a very short allowance of water. When nearly famished because of lack of food and almost crazed by want of drink, they were picked up by a French brig bound for Bordeaux, and eventually landed at La Rochelle, whence they were taken on to Bordeaux by land. Mr. Powers had no money nor clothing save that which he wore and was even without a hat but found a kind friend in an English gentleman who relieved his immediate wants and cared for him until opportunity came for him to return home. Recrossing the Atlantic, he landed at New York, and through the assistance of business acquaintances and his elder brother, he was able to promptly discharge the indebtedness which it had been necessary for him to incur. His people who mourned him as dead were greatly surprised and rejoiced to welcome him, for he proceeded at once by steamer up the Hudson river to his home. He did not attempt again to enter business circles in Cuba, but on again leaving New York sailed for Mobile, Alabama, this time on a safe voyage, which brought him at length to his destination. He was connected with business interests in Alabama and Mississippi in association with his brothers and brother-in-law, Chauncey Wilkinson, being located at different times at Mobile, Tuscaloosa, Prairie Bluff and Aberdeen. In 1849, however, he heard and heeded the call of the middle west and Decatur gained thereby a citizen, the value of whose service in later years cannot be overestimated. Two years previously he had visited this city, his mother and two brothers, George and Samuel, having located here some years before. It was then a little town but he recognized the fact that it lay in the midst of a rich country and gave promise of future development. He therefore sought its opportunities when he left the south, and with the exception of about a decade passed in Jacksonville, Illinois, he continued a resident of Decatur from 1849 until his death.

Even previous to this time the name of Powers had figured in connection with business activities in Macon county. William Lorenzo Powers, who was born in New York city, December 9, 1804, had removed to Mobile, Alabama, where he followed merchandising for a number of years and then came to Illinois, settling in Bloomington. Making his home in that city, he engaged in the land business, entering extensive tracts in McLean and Macon counties. He never resided in Decatur, but owned considerable property here, and in 1858 erected a building of three stories on East Main, between Water street and the alley west, which building is still standing. He also owned a number of farms in Macon county. He died unmarried, August 28, 1858.

Orlando Powers' initial business effort in Decatur was in the operation of a saw and grist mill, which he owned and conducted for some time. He then turned his attention to merchandising as proprietor of a boot and shoe store, and therein laid the foundation for the success which in time placed him in the front rank among the business men of the city. For many years he was the owner of the only set of abstract books in Macon county. As he came into close touch with the people and learned of the district in which he had cast his lot, he realized that it must in time become a thickly settled region, because of the fertility of the soil. He therefore invested in real estate, adding to his property from time to time until his holdings of both farm land and city realty were extensive. When opportunity came for profitable sale he disposed of his holdings and also improved and developed his property. In 1889 he erected the Decatur Opera House, a beautiful and substantial "palace of dramatic art." Where the interests of the city were involved, as well as where private enterprises were concerned, he gave liberally, and almost every public interest of Decatur benefited by his generous support, his cooperation, and his influence. His name and example always carried weight and secured for any movement or project a large following. This was due to the fact that his judgment was recognized as uniformly sound, and all, moreover, felt that the spirit of municipal loyalty was one of his strong characteristics.

The year which witnessed Mr. Powers' arrival in Decatur also chronicled his marriage, Miss Charlotte E. Given, of Smithland, Union county, Kentucky, becoming his wife. He had formed her acquaintance two years before in traveling on horseback from Mobile, Alabama, to Decatur, and the friendship which then had its inception, ripened into love and was consummated in marriage. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Powers were born two daughters and two sons. Alice, the eldest, born September 30, 1856, died on the 22d of April, 1878. Charles G. Powers, the elder son, was born in Decatur, June 30, 1861. In the public schools of this city he mastered the elementary branches of learning, afterward attended the Illinois College at Jacksonville, and also pursued a commercial course in Brown's Business College. He was only thirteen years of age when he went to Jacksonville in company with his sister Annabel, who entered the Deaf Mute Institute there because of her hearing. For eight years he remained in that city. He entered upon the study of law in Decatur under the direction of the firm of Crea & Ewing, attorneys, but was not admitted to the bar, his object in studying law being to gain enough knowledge of legal principles to enable him to manage his father's business. In 1884 the family returned to Decatur from Jacksonville, and Charles G. Powers took charge of the estate, which he yet supervises. In this connection he displays keen insight, sound judgment, unfaltering enterprise and progressive methods. The Powers estate is one of the largest in this section, and covers many business and residence properties in Decatur. On the 21st of June, 1887, Charles G. Powers was married to Miss Effie Rogers, a daughter of Jason Rogers, of this city, and they have one child, John Howard, born August 23, 1895. The parents are members of the First Presbyterian church, and are prominent in the social circles of the city. Mr. Powers also belongs to the Decatur Club, the Elks Club

and the Country Club, his recreation largely coming to him through his connection with those organizations.

Howard W. Powers, the second son, was born in Decatur, June 20, 1864, and completed his education in the schools of Jacksonville, being a graduate of the Illinois College of that city. He joined his brother in the management of the estate left by the father, and they have since been associated in business under the name of C. G. & H. W. Powers. They are recognized as gentlemen of excellent business sagacity and keen foresight and in the supervision of extensive property interests have shown marked discrimination combined with an aptitude for successful management that is evidenced in the excellent results which attend their labors. On the 19th of December, 1903, Howard W. Powers was married to Miss Mabel Durfee, a daughter of Captain George Durfee, of Decatur, and they have three children: Howard William, born March 8, 1905; Given Durfee, April 20, 1909; and Robert Charles, June 29, 1910. Howard W. Powers has a home at Palm Beach, Florida, where he spends the winter months, while the summer seasons are passed in the north. He, too, is a member of the Decatur Club, the Elks Club and the Country Club.

Annabel Powers, born in Decatur, August 8, 1867, lost her hearing when five years of age through spinal meningitis, and two years later the family removed to Jacksonville for the purpose of educating her at the Deaf and Dumb State Institution, remaining in that city for ten years. She was married June 17, 1890, to Charles Kerney, of Evansville, Indiana, who died in Decatur, August 1, 1902, leaving a daughter, Charlotte Wright, born January 4, 1895. Mrs. Kerney was married again on the 26th of May, 1904, becoming the wife of William C. Tilley, of San Francisco, where they now reside. Mrs. Tilley owns a beautiful home of her own at Tiberon, across the bay north of San Francisco.

When age conferred upon Orlando Powers the right of franchise he supported the whig party, but joined the republican party as a supporter of Abraham Lincoln during his first presidential candidacy. He never faltered thereafter as an advocate of republican principles, for he deemed them most effective forces for good government. He long held membership in the First Presbyterian church of Decatur, and was one of its most active and helpful workers, giving generous assistance toward building its house of worship, also to support its local interests and its missionary endeavors. He was the founder of the scholarship in the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in the northwest. He never made religion a thing apart from his life—a Sunday observance as it were—but found in the teachings of the church the principles which guided his conduct and shaped his relations with his fellowmen. A tale of sorrow or distress awakened his ready sympathy, and when it was in his power to render assistance he did so. If a census could be taken of Decatur's citizens whom he has helped in one way or another, the number would reach up to a large figure. Business firms and individuals alike received his assistance in hours of need, and his unostentatious method of giving aid makes it certain that many were the recipients of his bounty of whom the public have no knowledge. When a public project was instituted for the benefit of Decatur, he was among the first to espouse the cause, and his citizenship was characterized by an un-

faltering loyalty. He was ever devoted to the welfare of his family, and the close companionship which existed between himself and his wife made theirs largely an ideal relation. The death of Mrs. Powers occurred May 3, 1897. For five years more Mr. Powers trod life's pathway, and on the 1st of July, 1902, was called to the home beyond. His were "the blest accompaniments of age—honor, riches, troops of friends." It was his to preserve the precious prize of keen mentality to the closing hours of life, and when the end came, it was as "one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him and lies down to pleasant dreams."

The Powers family is now represented in Decatur by the two brothers, Charles G. and Howard W., who, managing the estate, are still actively concerned in the business interests of the city and are, moreover, leading figures in the social life of Decatur, and also Mrs. Annabel (Powers) Tilley, who spends most of her time at her winter home in California.

JOHN ALLEN.

It is refreshing in this day when so much is written about graft and political dishonesty to consider the history of John Allen, whose public record has been free from attack. The position to him has been purely that of political preference, arising in no degree from personal considerations. He now occupies the position of circuit clerk and official abstractor for Macon county, continuing in the former position without interruption for ten years.

He was born in Evansville, Indiana, June 16, 1863, and is a son of James and Ellen (Vickery) Allen, both of whom were natives of Ireland, and came to America in childhood. The father was engaged in the boot and shoe business for a number of years in Evansville, where he died in 1901, having for about four years survived his wife.

John Allen was educated in the public schools of his native city, and in his youthful days sold newspapers and worked in a printing office. Throughout his life he has eagerly availed himself of every opportunity for advancement, and promotion has at all times been honestly won. For several years he was employed in a grocery store in Vincennes, Indiana, and in 1884, when twenty-one years of age, came to Decatur and for several years was connected with a grocery store on Merchant street, later engaging in the real-estate business. He was elected to the board of supervisors of Decatur township in 1897, which position he held for four years, being chairman of the board for one year and was a member of the first board of review.

In 1900 he was elected circuit clerk and has three times been elected to that office, receiving at the last election the highest vote ever given to any candidate in Macon county—a fact which is indicative of his popularity as an official and of the unqualified confidence reposed in him. He is now serving for the tenth year in that position and in the discharge of his duties his promptness, faithfulness and efficiency have gained him high encomiums.

In 1903 the county board sought to establish a set of modern indices by tracts of land, commonly known as a tract index, and reposing full confidence in the ability of Mr. Allen, entrusted him with the responsibility of preparing these books. When completed the county board contracted with Mr. Allen to compile abstracts of title for hire, and for the past four years abstracts of title have been compiled and sold under the direction of John Allen to the people of Macon county with a success beyond the expectation of the county board, and the net earnings from the sale of abstracts have paid the cost of compilation of the tract index books. Macon and Cook counties are the only counties in the state that have as yet successfully engaged in the compilation and sale of abstracts of title. These tract books, fifty in number, were made under Mr. Allen's personal supervision and have proven a valuable acquisition to the records of the office of the county recorder. The plan has met with the approval of the property owners in the city and county.

On the 27th day of September, 1888, Mr. Allen was united in marriage to Miss Flora Hester, a native of Indiana, and to them has been born one son, Edgar Hester Allen. The parents are members of the Methodist church, and Mr. Allen is connected with several fraternities. His home is in one of Decatur's attractive suburbs known as Allendale, located a short distance west of the Millikin University.

Few of the residents of Decatur have a wider acquaintance or are held in higher regard than John Allen, whose devotion to duty has won him the favorable opinion of all with whom he has come in contact. Moreover, he is a gentleman of genial manner and kindly disposition, and these qualities, combined with his deference for the opinion of others, have gained for him high regard. His trustworthiness and loyalty in office may well constitute an example for other Illinois officials.

L. W. WHEELER.

L. W. Wheeler resides on section 2, Oakley township, and is the owner of a well improved and valuable farm of three hundred acres. The active management of the place, however, he largely leaves to others, although for a long period he personally engaged in the raising of grain and stock. He was born in Macon county, May 9, 1838. His father, Garland Wheeler, a native of Virginia, removed from that state to Kentucky, where he was united in marriage in Bullitt county, to Miss Elizabeth Whitledge, who was also born in the Old Dominion, but was reared in the Blue Grass state. Garland Wheeler followed farming in Kentucky for many years and thirteen children were born unto them there. In September, 1834, the family left their old home for Illinois and working their way northward to Macon county, the father entered two hundred and forty acres of prairie land and eighty acres of timber land in Oakley township, where he began the development of a new farm. He became a well known and prosperous agriculturist of the community. Upon this place he reared his family and spent his remaining days, his death occurring in 1864.

His wife survived him for a number of years and passed away in January, 1879.

L. W. Wheeler is the youngest of the family and the only one of the fourteen children born in Macon county. There were six sons and eight daughters, thirteen of whom grew to years of maturity, but only the subject of this review now survives. He was reared on the home farm, remaining with his father and mother until they were called to their final rest. Previous to the death of his parents, he took charge of the property, bending his energies to the development of the fields and the care of the crops. He is almost wholly a self-educated man and practical experience, reading and observation have brought him much valuable knowledge. As a companion and helpmate for life's journey he chose Sarah Kemp, who was born in Scott county, Illinois, but was reared in Macon county. Their marriage was celebrated on the 11th of November, 1858, and they began their domestic life on the home farm, which was afterward inherited by L. W. Wheeler and his brother Garland. They worked together for some years. Afterward L. W. Wheeler purchased other land and is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres, improved with three sets of good farm buildings. The equipments upon the place are modern and indicate the progressive spirit of the owner. In connection with the tilling of the soil Mr. Wheeler engaged in breeding and dealing in cattle, horses and hogs and in both lines of his work met with substantial and gratifying returns. He has resided at his present place of abode since June, 1906.

In 1865 Mr. Wheeler was called upon to mourn the loss of his first wife. There were four children of that marriage: Mary E., who grew to womanhood and was married, but has now passed away; William A., who died at the age of thirteen years; and Samuel and Edward, also deceased. On the 25th of September, 1869, Mr. Wheeler was married to Miss Anna Boyd, a native of Coles county, Illinois, and there were two sons of that marriage: Oliver, who died at the age of two years; and George R., who was married and passed away on the 5th of June, 1900. He was a well educated man and for some years successfully engaged in teaching. At his death he left a wife and son, Boyd Wallace Wheeler, who resides with his grandparents. On the 25th of September, 1879, in Oakley township, L. W. Wheeler wedded Margaret Ross, who was born in Brown county, Ohio, and was there reared to the age of sixteen years. Her education was acquired in the schools of that state and of Illinois. Her parents were Taylor and Sarah Ross, both of whom were natives of Ohio, whence they removed to Illinois in 1868, settling in Taylor county. There have been two sons born of the last marriage of Mr. Wheeler: Richard C., who is a farmer of Oakley township and is married and has two children, John Ross and Hazel Amanda; and Linn Virgil, who occupies the old home farm on which his father was born. He, too, is married and has two daughters, Verna Veech and Esther Mina.

In his political views Mr. Wheeler was formerly a democrat, but of late years has been independent, supporting the men whom he regards best qualified for office. He is a strong advocate of temperance and is a prohibitionist in principle. From his youth to the present time he has never used intoxicants nor tobacco. In 1900 his eyesight failed so that he cannot see to any practical

purpose. He has passed the seventy-second milestone on life's journey, and his has been an active, useful and honorable career. He is regarded as a good business man and a public-spirited citizen, and wherever known he is held in high esteem. Macon has few native sons who have so long remained within her borders. For more than the Psalmist's span of three score years and ten he has been a witness of the growth and progress of this portion of the state, and has made for himself an excellent record throughout the entire period.

De WITT C. CORLEY.

De Witt C. Corley, a leading member of the Decatur bar, who has practiced continuously in this city since 1880, was born in Shelby county, Illinois, December 24, 1852. His father, Henry W. W. Corley, was a native of Kentucky and in his boyhood days came with his parents to Illinois, the family home being established in Shelby county in 1823, where he was reared, married and spent his after life on a farm. He was at the time of his death recognized as one of the oldest residents in his county, not in years but in continuous residence therein. He wedded Miss Cynthia A. Powell, and died in March, 1890, at the age of seventy years.

The home farm was the playground of De Witt C. Corley in his youth and his training school for life's practical duties. His educational training was acquired in the public schools, and in Illinois Wesleyan University at Bloomington, from which he was graduated in the class of 1877, with the degree of Bachelor of Science. He then turned his attention to teaching in the public schools, which he followed for three successive years, but regarded this merely as an initial step to further professional labor. Desiring to become a member of the bar, he devoted his leisure hours while teaching to the study of law, and in 1878 continued his reading in the law office of Moulton, Chafee & Headen, at Shelbyville, Illinois. In 1879 he came to Decatur and continued his studies with Brower A. Bunn as his preceptor. During the winter he taught in Sulphur Springs school, and in the summer of 1880 successfully passed the required examination which admitted him to practice before the Illinois bar. In the spring of 1881 he was elected to the office of justice of the peace and served for four years in that position. He then entered upon the practice of law, which he has always followed independently. He now ranks with the leading attorneys of the city, his reputation being won through earnest effort, close application and unfaltering loyalty to the interests of his clients. He has ever been careful in the preparation of his cases, martials his evidence with the precision of a military commander, and while presenting every detail that may possibly bear upon the case, he never loses sight of the important point upon which the decision of every case finally turns.

On the 7th of July, 1887, Mr. Corley was united in marriage to Miss Laura Fulton, a daughter of Robert E. and Sarah Jane (Bigger) Fulton. Her father is now deceased, while the mother resides with Mr. and Mrs. Corley, whose

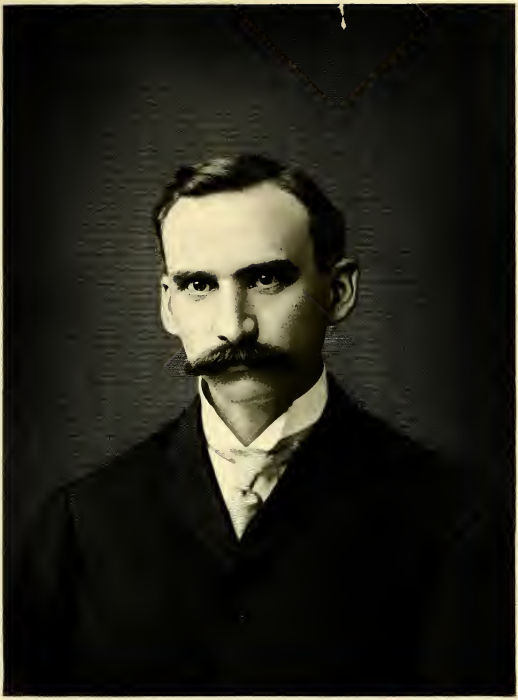
marriage has been blessed with four children: Helen, who is a graduate of the University of Michigan, is now a teacher of languages at Big Rapids, Michigan; Howard is a sophomore in the University of Illinois, pursuing the engineering course; Seymour is a senior in the Decatur high school; Warren, a lad of ten years, completes the family.

The parents are active members of the Presbyterian church, and Mr. Corley is serving as one of its trustees. In politics he is a stanch republican, but has never been an office seeker. He belongs to Celestial Lodge, No. 186, I. O. O. F., and to Decatur Encampment, No. 37, and is popular with the members of that organization. His qualities as a man, as a member of the bar, and as a citizen are such as commend him to the confidence and good-will of all, and he belongs to that class who uphold the legal and political status of the community and seek also its intellectual and moral progress.

WILLIAM GUSHARD.

William Gushard, who in 1895 established the important mercantile concern that is now known as the William Gushard Dry Goods Company of Decatur, passed away at his residence at No. 1000 Marietta street, dying very suddenly on the 23d of October, 1909. His birth occurred in Stark county, Ohio, on the 5th of March, 1862. His father, George Gushard, carried on merchandising in Stark county, where his demise occurred in 1894. He had been twice married, his second wife and the mother of our subject being Mrs. Hannah Rorabaugh, who was called to her final rest on the 25th of May, 1865.

William Gushard spent the first eight years of his life in his native county, entering the public schools at the usual age. On leaving Stark county he went with his father to Wabash county, Indiana, where he continued his studies until a youth of fifteen. Returning to Ohio, he made his home in Akron for the following nine years and during that period embarked on his business career as salesman in a dry-goods establishment. Mastering the business in principle and detail, he gained broad and practical knowledge of the methods employed in the mercantile world and, being thus well equipped for further advancement, he became a trusted employe in the dry-goods house of G. Y. Smith & Company, of Kansas City, Missouri. He remained with that concern for two and a half years and then invested the capital which he had accumulated through industry and economy, becoming the proprietor of a mercantile establishment in Excelsior Springs, Missouri. Subsequently he was numbered among the leading merchants of Topeka, Kansas, being very successful in his business operations. In 1895 he came to Decatur, Illinois, and here established a dry goods and millinery store as the senior member of the firm of Gushard & Company, his partner in this enterprise being Walter Buck. The old store was located at No. 207 to 211 North Water street and its dimensions were fifty by one hundred and twenty feet. The building was three stories in height and all three floors were utilized for the accommodation of their large stock of millinery and dry goods. From



Wm. Gushard.

forty to fifty clerks were employed at that time. On the 30th of May, 1906, the location was changed to the Wait building at the northwest corner of William and North Water streets. That year the concern was incorporated under the state laws and on the death of William Gushard it was reorganized with the following officers: Clyde F. Trisch, president; James A. Carroll, vice president; W. Harold Wiley, treasurer; and J. A. Keith, secretary. The William Gushard Dry Goods Company, as the enterprise is now known, occupies two floors and a basement and has fine display windows. The basement stock comprises dinnerware, fancy china, cut glass, house furnishings, packing room, shipping department and work rooms for window trimmers and carpet makers. On the first floor may be found a general line of dry goods, the ladies' and children's shoe department and the offices of the company. The second floor is given over to a millinery emporium, ladies' ready to wear garments, corsets, furs, children's department, carpets and draperies. During the busy season as high as one hundred and fifty people are employed. Mrs. Gushard still retains her husband's large interest in the dry goods business and is a lady of excellent executive ability and sound judgment. Mr. Gushard was likewise a director of the Decatur Fountain Company and was widely recognized as one of the representative and most prosperous business men of the city.

On December 26, 1895, Mr. Gushard was united in marriage to Miss Della Perkins, who comes of a good Kansas family and who was a popular school teacher of Topeka, where she taught for more than ten years. By her marriage she became the mother of three children, namely: Geraldine; Hannah Louise; and Ruth Elizabeth, who is deceased.

Fraternally Mr. Gushard was a Knight Templar Mason and a Modern Woodman of America. His religious faith was indicated by his membership in the First Episcopal church, in which he served as a trustee. His political allegiance was given to the republican party and he was a most public-spirited and loyal citizen. He was a member of the Houghton Lake & Fishing Club and had but recently returned from a fishing trip when his demise occurred. Mrs. Gushard is a member of the Women's Club of Decatur and also belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church. Following the death of her husband she purchased lots on the site of her present home, which is at No. 1171 West Main street and is a beautiful location, being opposite the entrance to the James Millikin University.

JOHN W. HAWVER.

Among the residents of Decatur to whose well directed efforts in the field of agriculture is due the fact that they are now able to live retired, enjoying in well earned rest the fruits of years of earnest and honest toil, is numbered John W. Hawver. Born in Indiana on the 11th of September, 1851, he is a son of John and Elizabeth (Studebaker) Hawver, natives of Maryland and Ohio, respectively, who came to Illinois in the spring of 1869. The family home was established in Piatt county, near Bement, and there the father passed away

in 1894 at the age of seventy-four years. He had been a farmer throughout his entire life and in politics was a democrat. His widow still survives, and at the ripe old age of eighty-five years makes her home at Cerro Gordo, Piatt county.

John W. Hawver, who was the eldest in a family of five children, was reared a country lad and amid the busy activities of rural life spent the period of boyhood and youth. The winter months were devoted to the acquirement of an education in the common schools near his father's home, and in the summer seasons he worked upon the home farm, early becoming familiar with the tasks that fall to the lot of the farm lad. Upon laying aside his text-books he remained with his father, assisting him in the cultivation of the fields, until twenty-two years of age, when, tiring of the narrow confines of country life and wishing to see something of the world, he left home. Turning his face toward the west, he made his way to Kansas, and later to Oregon and California, spending from two to three years in each state, and altogether was away from Illinois about nine years. On the expiration of that period he returned to Illinois, locating in Piatt county, and there took up the occupation to which he had been reared. In the spring of 1895 he removed to Oreana, in Whitmore township, Macon county, and there resided until 1908, when he retired from active life. He had engaged continuously in agricultural pursuits since his return from the west, and throughout that period his labors were of a most resultant character, making it possible in the latter year to leave the farm and, with a goodly competence, seek the comforts offered by city life. He now occupies a pleasant and attractive home at 1595 North Church street, and there the proverbial hospitality of the family is enjoyed by a large circle of friends.

In the year 1893 Mr. Hawver was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Finnity, a daughter of John and Elizabeth Finnity, natives of New York, who came to the prairie state in pioneer days. She was born July 6, 1868, the third of a family of five children, and in her infancy she lost her father. The mother passed away several years ago. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Hawver has been blessed with five children, two of whom are deceased. Those living are: Paul L., born December 23, 1893, who is a student in high school; Harold, who was born February 24, 1901, and is also attending school; and Helen Lucile, born May 10, 1906. Esther E., born in 1896, died in 1900; and Harry W., born in 1897, died in 1900.

A careful study of the political situation led Mr. Hawver early in life to give his support to the democratic party on national issues, the principles of which he deems most conducive to the general welfare. In local politics, however, he casts an independent vote, always supporting the best men and most desirable measures irrespective of party ties. He filled the office of tax collector for two years while residing in Piatt county and was also school director for a number of terms, the cause of education finding in him a stanch champion. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and both he and his wife hold membership in Grace Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which both are actively and helpfully interested. He is now serving

as steward of the church, and Mrs. Hawver belongs to the Foreign Missionary and Ladies Aid Societies. They have ever been guided by high and noble ideals, and in their lives have manifested those characteristics which make for the best citizenship in any community.

JAMES W. SANDERS, M. D.

Dr. James W. Sanders occupies a distinguished position as a specialist in the treatment of diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat, and yet has hardly reached the zenith of his powers. The ability which arises from broad experience and continued study and research is his and has won him recognition not only in a liberal patronage but also in the honor accorded him by fellow members of the profession.

Dr. Sanders was born in 1864, a son of Robert E. Sanders. The district schools of Sangamon county afforded him his early educational privileges, and he also spent one year in the Northern Indiana Normal School at Danville, Indiana. He engaged in teaching in the years 1884, 1885 and 1886, becoming teacher in the district adjoining the one in which his early education was obtained. He there remained for two years and also taught in the town school at Pawnee, Illinois. While there he made a specialty in careful instruction in penmanship and many attribute their good handwriting of the present time to his teaching. He made his way through college by his own labor and has never feared that earnest effort which is one of the concomitants of successful accomplishment whether in the attainment of an education or of financial independence. For three years he was a student in Northwestern Medical College at Chicago, from which he was graduated with the class of 1889. He then opened an office in Windsor, Illinois, for general practice, but becoming interested in the field which he now makes his specialty, he afterward pursued post-graduate work in the Chicago Polyclinic for the study of diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat. On the 3d of January, 1893, he came to Decatur, where he has now resided for eighteen years. When he completed his medical course he had incurred an indebtedness of four hundred dollars, drawing interest at the rate of eight per cent. He bent every energy toward discharging this financial obligation, which was soon done. Today he has an extensive practice netting him an income of perhaps a thousand dollars per month. He has won distinction in his especial line, and is now president of the Eastern Illinois Ophthalmological and Otological Society and a member of the Decatur Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Society and the American Medical Association.

Dr. Sanders married Miss Ida M. Zink, a native of Illinois, and they now have one son, Robert Zink Sanders, who was born at No. 2335 Wabash avenue, Chicago, in January, 1886. After completing the high school course in Decatur, at the age of sixteen years he entered Millikin University and was graduated there at the age of twenty. He is now a junior in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Chicago, and is occupying responsible positions in con-

nection with a number of distinguished members of the faculty of that school.

Dr. Sanders is the owner of a valuable farm in Blue Mound township, where he has made an artificial lake fed by various springs. This he has stocked with fish of many kinds, and he finds great delight in here using the rod and line. With a forty horsepower automobile he quickly drives from Decatur to his farm, where he can not only indulge in fishing but also in hunting, for he has put considerable game upon the place. His son shares with him in these sports, for the Doctor believes in keeping the physical in good condition. He has developed a magnificent country home which has a picturesque situation, and will make one of the ideal estates of this part of Illinois.

Fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias. He has, however, comparatively little leisure for social or fraternal interests, owing to the heavy demands made upon his time and attention by a continually increasing practice. He has a splendidly equipped office supplied with everything that is of practical value to his professional work, and the excellent results which have followed his labors prove him one of the most capable representatives of ophthalmology, otology and laryngology in central Illinois.

LINN & SCRUGGS DRY GOODS & CARPET COMPANY.

Nothing indicates more clearly the growth of Decatur and of the surrounding country, or gives more positive proof of the employment of progressive methods than the growth of the extensive house of Linn & Scruggs Dry Goods & Carpet Company—the leading dry goods emporium of Decatur. For forty-one years without interruption this house has continued in business and has set the standard among dry-goods enterprises in this city. The original partners were William H. Linn and W. R. Scruggs, the former from Belleville, Illinois, and the latter from New York. Coming to Decatur, they formed a partnership, and on the 11th of October, 1869, began business at No. 24 Merchant street, under the firm style of Linn & Scruggs. They opened with a little line of dry goods, and from the beginning were accorded a liberal share of the public patronage. Their earnest efforts to please their customers, their reliable business methods and the attractive line of goods which they handled soon brought them an increased business, and in February, 1870, they removed to the old Condel & Stamper building, where they remained for a number of years. The continued development of their business, however, led to the removal in 1880 to the building which formerly stood on the site of the present store, and which was destroyed by fire in 1895. Phœnix-like, there arose the splendid structure which they now occupy and which is one of the leading business blocks of Decatur.

The policy inaugurated at the beginning has always been maintained. The founders regarded honesty and fair dealing as the only sure principle of success. At the outset their floor space covered hardly two thousand square feet, and their stock was worth but five thousand dollars. Today they have twenty-five times the original space, their store including nearly fifty thousand square

feet, while their merchandise is worth forty times the original stock, being valued at two hundred thousand dollars. This is not only the oldest established dry-goods business in Decatur, but in many respects has been the pioneer in innovations in merchandising, which today are considered among the actual necessities of service in a modern department store. It was the first Decatur store to make a feature of show windows; it inaugurated the first dry-goods delivery system; was the first to establish and maintain a pneumatic cash system; and the first store to establish passenger elevator service.

While the original partners have passed from this life, the business has been conducted without interruption, the present officers being: T. J. Prentice, president; J. R. Holt, vice president; and W. S. Grubbs, secretary-treasurer. The first two are the owners of the business which came to them by purchase on the 1st of February, 1907. Mr. Grubbs had been secretary and treasurer of the company for a long period and was so continued under the new management. Mr. Holt and Mr. Prentice were both associated with the well known house of Scruggs, Vandervort & Barney, of St. Louis, of which Mr. Prentice was assistant secretary, while Mr. Holt held various positions in connection therewith. Under the new management the success of the business has increased beyond all expectations. Many improvements have been made, and the boulevard electric light system has been installed around the store, other merchants following their example in this regard. They have also established an automobile delivery system, and in fact employ every modern method to facilitate the business and raise it at all times to the highest system of mercantile service. They employ from one hundred and eighty-five to two hundred and twenty-five people. The officers of the company are most enterprising and progressive business men, of sound judgment and keen insight, with a genius for organization and marked executive ability.

KIRBY BROTHERS.

One would not attempt to write a complete history of Whitmore township without making prominent reference to the Kirby brothers, Grant, Richard and Lewis, who are numbered among the progressive farmers and stock-raisers, owning over four hundred acres of valuable land which has been brought under a high state of cultivation and is well improved with all of the equipment and accessories of the model farm of the twentieth century. There are two sets of buildings upon the place and an air of neatness and thrift pervades everything. Energy and determination are manifest in the transaction of the work and substantial results have followed. The brothers are all native sons of Illinois.

Grant Kirby was born in St. Clair county on the 4th of October, 1867, and is one of a family of three sons and four daughters. Their father, Richard Kirby, a native of Delaware, was born in 1835 and was reared to manhood in that state. When a young man, he came west to Illinois, settling in St. Clair county. He there worked by the month as a farm hand for a time, but was

ambitious that his labor should more directly benefit himself and later rented land which he cultivated for a number of years. He was married there to Sophronia Ruddock, a native of Illinois, born in St. Clair county. In the year 1869 Mr. Kirby removed to Macon county and invested in property in Whitmore township, becoming the owner of one hundred and twenty acres, constituting the nucleus of the farm upon which his sons now reside. Slight improvements had been made at that time, yet comparatively little had been done to convert the place into a productive and valuable farm. The father at once began to till the fields and cultivate crops adapted to the soil and climate, and year by year the work of improvement was carried forward. Prospering in his undertaking, so that his financial resources increased, he bought more land from time to time and became the owner of four hundred acres. There he erected a good residence, together with substantial barns and outbuildings, furnishing ample shelter for grain and stock. He became recognized not only as one of the well known, but also as one of the prosperous farmers of Macon county, and his business reliability as well as his energy gained for him the respect and good will of his fellowmen. He reared his family here and spent his last years on the farm, his death occurring November 23, 1904. Deep regret was felt when he was called away, for he had endeared himself to his fellowmen and everywhere he was spoken of in terms of high regard. His fellow townsmen had given expression of their faith in his progressive citizenship by electing and reelecting him to the office of supervisor, so that he served as a member of the Macon county board for a number of years. His widow survives and resides with her sons on the home farm. She, too, is widely known in this county and has a large circle of warm friends. The daughters of the family are: Anna, now the wife of Dr. Dixon, of Decatur; and Mamie, Sue and Dott, all at home.

Grant Kirby, the eldest of the three sons, was reared upon the home farm which he assisted in cultivating to the time of his father's death, when the management and care of the property devolved upon him and his two brothers. His experiences had been practical, so that he was well qualified to assume the responsibility which came to him. On the 14th of September, 1887, he was married to Miss Mae Morrison, who was born and reared in Macon county and pursued her education in its public schools. Her father, Robert Morrison, was one of the early settlers who came from Pennsylvania. Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Grant Kirby began their domestic life on the farm where they still reside. They have become the parents of two daughters, Harriet Grace and Helen Alea.

His brothers have ever been associated with Grant Kirby in farming operations, and in 1906 they purchased two hundred acres of land adjoining the old homestead. They have erected a commodious and neat residence, which is built in modern style of architecture, and in fact is one of the most attractive and pleasing country homes of Macon county. They have also built two good barns upon the place, and there are large cribs and other outbuildings which are a matter of convenience in carrying on the farm work. The brothers are progressive business men who are making a specialty of raising and feeding hogs, cattle and horses, giving, perhaps, more attention to hogs and heavy draft

horses. They raise some good stock, including pure blooded and high grade Poland-China hogs, feeding about two hundred head for the market each year. In business affairs relating to the farm and its management their judgment is sound and their discrimination keen, and whatever they undertake they carry forward to successful completion.

The Kirby brother are identified with the democratic party but none of them is a politician in the usually accepted sense of office-seeking. They give their time and attention to the farm and business and are active and progressive in all of their work, keeping in touch with advanced methods of tilling the soil and raising the crops. Their labors have been attended with excellent success and they are numbered among the leading young men of Whitmore township, their honorable, straightforward methods commending them to the confidence and good will of all with whom they are associated. Those who know them find them pleasant, genial and courteous, and these qualities have made them favorites in social circles.

A. T. HILL.

A. T. Hill, who passed away in Decatur in 1888, was one of the leading and influential men of the city during the thirty years of his residence here. He became a prominent factor in financial circles, being one of the founders and virtually establishing the institution which is now known as the National Bank of Decatur. His birth occurred in Virginia in 1818 and his early education was acquired in private schools in that state. He early manifested a fondness for reading and became a well educated, well informed man. After putting aside his text-books he accepted a position as clerk in a general store at Belleville, Illinois. The year 1856 witnessed his arrival in Decatur and from that time until the close of the Civil war he conducted a general mercantile establishment, selling out in 1865. He was one of the founders of the Decatur Bank, which he virtually established and placed upon a paying basis. It later became the Decatur National Bank and is now known as the National Bank of Decatur. He served as its president and was one of its largest stockholders until about the time of his demise. Earnest, discriminating study of each duty that devolved upon him and of each situation in which he was placed, brought him a keen, discriminating knowledge that enabled him to bring a ready and correct solution of the financial problems which were presented to him.

On the 6th of September, 1860, at Randolph, New York, Mr. Hill was united in marriage to Miss Sarah D. Wilder, a daughter of Thomas and Hannah (Dow) Wilder. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hill was born one son, Edward. In 1861 they established their home at the corner of North Church street and West Prairie avenue—the corner facing what is now the beautiful First Presbyterian church, and there Mrs. Hill and her son and family still live.

Mr. Hill was a republican in politics and took an active and helpful interest in all matters pertaining to the general welfare. In his capacity as alderman and mayor of Decatur he instituted many measures of reform and improvement and was also an efficient officer on the board of supervisors. The cause of public

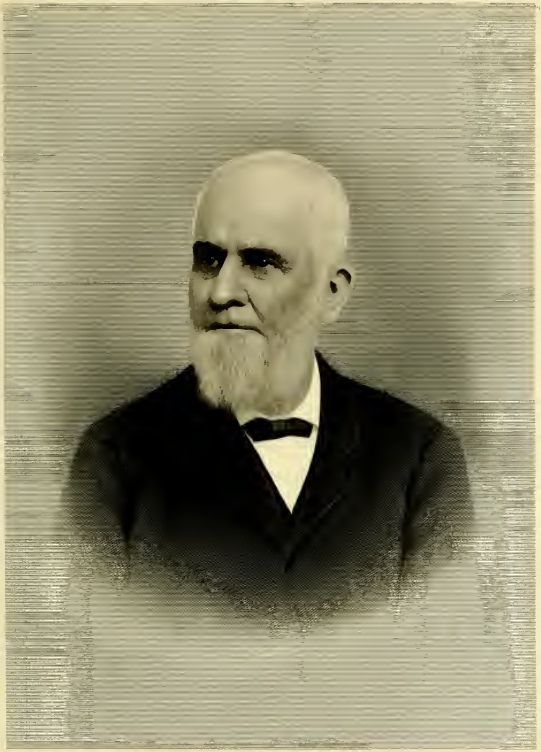
instruction found in him a stanch champion from the time he first came to Decatur and he did effective service in its behalf as a member of the board of education. His labors were a potent factor in the growth and development of Decatur and in his passing the city lost one of its most influential and respected citizens. He was liberal in religious views, ever ready to support all churches, but was not a member of any particular church. However he attended the services of both the First Presbyterian and Baptist churches and the high principles which actuated him were manifest in all the relations of life.

JEROME R. GORIN.

In 1833, the year following the Black Hawk war, a youth of sixteen years, Jerome R. Gorin arrived in Decatur, then a tiny village upon the western frontier. Long years passed before a colonist penetrated into this section of the country and before all of the land was taken up by actual settlers. It was almost twenty years later when the population of Decatur numbered only nine hundred, yet a start had been made and although the town was of slow growth for a decade or two, it was building upon substantial and permanent lines. From the beginning of his residence here Jerome R. Gorin took an active part in the work of public progress, helped to uphold the political and legal status of the community, to mold its commercial development and to promote its material and moral progress. His name is linked with those activities which figure as of worth on the pages of Decatur's history, and he came to an honored old age, having almost reached the eightieth milestone on life's journey when called to the home beyond.

A native of Kentucky, Mr. Gorin was born in Hopkinsville, Christian county, October 12, 1817, his parents being John D. and Mattie (Thomas) Gorin, who belonged to an old Virginian family. John D. Gorin was born in the Old Dominion but in his early youth went to the Blue Grass state with his parents and was there reared. In the spring of 1828 he came to Illinois, taking up his abode in Vandalia, then the capital city. His attention was given to both farming and merchandising and he was active and prominent among the early business men of that locality. He was also a leader of public affairs and for some years acted as receiver in the loan office. His death occurred in Vandalia, April 26, 1846, when he was fifty-six years of age, while his wife reached the advanced age of eighty-nine years, her death occurring on the 13th of July, 1876.

Jerome R. Gorin was reared amid the wild scenes and environments of pioneer life, although perhaps with less of the hardships than came to many for his parents were in comfortable circumstances. It is a well known fact that nothing more clearly shows the character of the individual than the experiences of pioneer life and the qualities of courage, determination, loyalty and entire absence of ostentation were early developed in Mr. Gorin. He was a self reliant young man, possessed laudable ambition when in 1833 he came to Decatur and joined his two older brothers who were then residents here. His brother, Henry M. Gorin, was for many years clerk of the court here but left the office in 1841. His



Jerome B. Gorin

sister, Elvira, who had come to Decatur in 1830, married General Isaac Pugh and both she and her husband died here at an advanced age.

Mr. Gorin made his entrance into business life in Decatur as a salesman but professional activity seemed more desirable and he spent two years in the study of law. In 1842 he was admitted to the bar upon passing an examination before Judge Treat and the following winter was spent in Scotland county, Missouri. At the end of that time, however, he returned to Decatur and formed a partnership with Judge Charles Emerson. When that connection was severed he became a partner of Judge Kirby Benedict and later put aside the duties of private practice to enter public service, having been elected city clerk and attorney in 1860 for a four years' term. He also filled the office of justice of the peace at one time and in the private practice of law was accorded a large and distinctively representative clientage. His name figured in the court records in connection with many of the important cases tried in this district. His last law partner was Judge Arthur Gallagher, with whom he was associated until 1861, when he withdrew from the field of law and was thereafter a prominent factor in banking circles in Decatur. He accepted the cashiership of the bank of Millikin & Oder, acting in that capacity at the same time that he filled the office of city clerk and attorney. Four years later he became a partner in the bank, continuing to act as cashier until 1881, when he withdrew from that connection to become the senior partner of the firm of Gorin & Bills. They established a private bank and also a real-estate and loan department, carrying on business together for two years. Mr. Gorin then became one of the organizers and the president of the bank of Gorin & Dawson, conducting a successful business in that connection for several years when he sold out to L. B. Casner. A year later this institution was merged into the Citizens National Bank, with Mr. Gorin as one of its incorporators and its first president. A year later, however, he disposed of his interests and his remaining days were spent in honorable retirement from labor and business management.

Mr. Gorin was married in Decatur, April 1, 1845, to Miss Eleanor D. Fawcett, a native of Virginia and a daughter of Isaac and Rebecca Fawcett. The six children born unto them are: Mary Emma, the wife of C. C. Middleton, a resident of Dallas, Texas; Orville B., long associated with banking interests in Decatur; Ida E., the wife of W. C. Armstrong, of Decatur; Jerome P., a business man of New York city; Mattie A., of this city; and Henry Gladden, now of Minneapolis.

Reared in the faith of the whig party, Mr. Gorin gave to it his stalwart support until its dissolution, when he joined the ranks of the new republican party. Later, however, he became a prohibitionist, because of his attitude on the temperance question, believing it to be one of the paramount issues before the people. In 1856 he was elected as the republican candidate to the state legislature and while filling that position was made disbursing agent of the Fort Ridgely wagon road, which was being built for the government from St. Paul and Fort Ridgely to the Missouri river. During that period Mr. Gorin maintained an office in St. Paul but at the end of a year returned to Decatur. His interest in Masonry was never of a perfunctory character. He had firm faith in the basic principles of the order, recognizing the fact that the world would be better if all would

recognize the brotherhood of mankind and the obligations imposed thereby. He joined Macon Lodge, No. 8, A. F. & A. M. on the 18th of October, 1841, and for a number of years prior to his death was the oldest and most honored member of that organization. He served as master of the lodge for seven years and was then elected grand master of the state. He also held membership in Macon Chapter, R. A. M., in which he served as high priest and in Beaumonoir Commandery, No. 9, K. T., of which he was eminent commander. In 1867 he was elected grand master of the grand lodge and in April, 1866, he joined the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite in the consistory in Chicago. He became the founder of the commandery in Olney, Illinois, on the 19th of January, 1865, and it was named Gorin Commandery in his honor. In various lines of Christian activity he was also a prominent figure and served almost continuously during his long connection therewith, as one of the officers of the First Methodist Episcopal church. He was thoroughly in sympathy with the organized work for the Christian instruction of the young, and not only did his labors prove effective in behalf of the local Sunday School Association but also in connection with the Sunday School Association of the state, which he served as president. He was likewise president of the County Sunday School Association and a member of its executive committee as well as a faithful worker in the Young Men's Christian Association. In all his Christian work he was ably assisted by his wife. Their married life was one of the closest harmony, each ever seeking the happiness of the other, and, therefore, their home life was of a most ideal character. The death of Mrs. Gorin occurred in 1894, while Mr. Gorin survived until the 1st of September, 1897. He was then almost eighty years of age and, with the exception of the first eleven years of his life the entire period was passed in Illinois. No one rejoiced more sincerely in the growth and upbuilding of the state. His activities touched the general interests of society in his work along material, fraternal, political and moral lines.

Few men active in business have so closely followed the golden rule or kept themselves unspotted from the world. His family was always first with him but public interests were near his heart. He displayed keen discernment and a faculty for separating the important features of any subject from the incidental or accidental circumstances. Moreover, he preserved the precious prize of keen mentality to the closing hours of his life. It was of such a type of man that Victor Hugo wrote when he said "though the frost of winter was on his head, the flowers of spring were in his heart."

JOSEPH N. LOVING.

Joseph N. Loving is a retired attorney living in Decatur. He is also an honored veteran of the Civil war, and his loyalty to his country has even been one of his strongly marked characteristics. His birth occurred in east Tennessee on Christmas day of 1842. His father, Garland Stephen Loving, a native of Virginia, was a farmer by occupation, and removed to Tennessee, where he was married to Euphemia Bowling, a native of that state. They remained

residents of Tennessee for a number of years and then removed with their family in 1866 to Moultrie county, Illinois, where the death of the mother occurred on the 28th of February, 1895. She had long survived her husband who had died in Kentucky, January 14, 1875, while on a visit to a daughter in Pulaski county, that state. The Loving family is of Scotch lineage, and was founded in America by the grandfather of our subject, who was born in the land of hills and heather, and at an early period in the colonization of the new world crossed the Atlantic to become a resident of Virginia, where his remaining days were passed. The maternal grandfather was a native of Tennessee and there spent his entire life. In the family of Garland S. and Euphemia Loving there were eight children: James W., Margaret P., Benjamin F., Joseph N., Lurania Prudence, Rieta Catherine, George W. and John R. By a former marriage the father had three children, Ransom, William R. and Elizabeth J.

The educational advantages afforded Joseph N. Loving were extremely limited, but nature endowed him with strong intellect and a retentive memory and by study at home he prepared for admission to the bar. He then entered upon the practice of law, to which he devoted twenty years, and was accorded a liberal patronage, while his work in the courts showed clear reasoning and logical deductions. His professional services, however, were interrupted by his enlistment as a soldier of the Civil war, and on the 29th of September, 1861, he became a member of Company E, Twelfth Regiment of Kentucky Volunteers, joining the army in Clinton county, Kentucky. He remained with that command until honorably discharged, January 21, 1865, at Knoxville, Tennessee, receiving final payment in Nashville, that state. He was wounded in the left ankle at the siege of Knoxville in 1863 and was sent to the hospital, where he remained for about a month. Following his recovery from his injuries, he acted as clerk in the general headquarters at Knoxville and was one of those chosen to guard the body of General Zollecoffer, who was killed at the battle of Fishing Creek, being the first Confederate general that fell in service. Mr. Loving also participated in the battles of Fort Donelson and Perryville, was in various skirmishes and had many trying experiences. After the war he returned to his home in Columbia, Adair county, Kentucky.

Mr. Loving remained at home until he was forty-eight years of age. He was married in Springfield, Illinois, August 27, 1892, to Miss Mayme E. Snapp, a native of Coles county, Illinois. Her father, James M. Snapp, was born in Tennessee. Her grandfather came to Illinois during pioneer times and remained a resident of this state until his death. James M. Snapp followed farming as a life work and on his removal to Coles county secured a tract of land, which he cultivated until his removal to Shelby county, Illinois, where his last days were passed. In early manhood he wedded Mary E. Keller, who was born in Coles county, where she spent the greater part of her life, although her death occurred when she was a resident of Shelby county, Illinois. Her father had settled in this state in pioneer times. He became a soldier and lost his life during the war. There were ten children in the family of James M. and Mary E. Snapp: America; George N.; Hepsibah; William and Jacob, both of whom are now deceased; Charles; James; Frank; Mayme E.; and Thomas J.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Loving has been blessed with two children: Beulah M., who was born May 12, 1896, in Dalton City, Illinois; and Vivian S., who was born in Dalton City, December 11, 1898. They also lost one child, Mildred P., who was born June 20, 1903, and died five years later.

While living in Moultrie county, Mr. Loving filled the office of justice of the peace for fourteen years, proving a capable official, whose decisions were strictly fair and impartial. He also served as collector. He belongs to I. C. Pugh Post, G. A. R., No. 481, at Dalton City, and he and his family are members of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Decatur. They have resided in this city continuously since 1905, and are widely and favorably known here. Mr. Loving gives his political allegiance to the democracy, but was formerly a republican. However, he has largely voted independently, casting his ballot for the candidates whom he regards as best qualified for office. He is widely and favorably known in Decatur and Macon county and is held in high esteem by all with whom business or social relations have brought him in contact.

GUY CLARK HECKEL.

Guy Clark Heckel, one of the enterprising and representative young agriculturists of Long Creek township, makes his home on section 14, where he is successfully engaged in the tilling of the soil and the raising of stock. His birth occurred in that township on the 24th of July, 1880, his parents being Charles A. and Ella (Clark) Heckel. The paternal grandfather, John Joseph Heckel, was born in Erfurt, Germany, on the 4th of May, 1810. He was educated at the celebrated Wittenberg University, became master of several languages, and all his life was a student and thinker. After serving for three years in the Prussian army he emigrated to the United States, settling in Long Creek township, Macon county, Illinois, about 1834. He located upon a small tract of rough land, which he gradually brought under a high state of cultivation, becoming one of the prosperous agriculturists of the community. The period of his residence in this county covered almost six decades, for he passed away here on the 6th of February, 1892, when eighty-two years of age. On the 3d of May, 1840, he had wedded Miss Elizabeth Hanks, whose birth occurred in Hardin county, Kentucky, April 23, 1822. She was a second cousin to Abraham Lincoln and a playmate of the future president in his early boyhood. Her demise occurred just four days prior to that of her husband.

Charles A. Heckel, the father of Guy Clark Heckel, is numbered among the worthy native sons of Macon county, having been born in Long Creek township in May, 1849. He has carried on general agricultural pursuits throughout his entire business career and is widely recognized as a prominent farmer and leading resident of that township. He is a well educated man, and for ten years preached the gospel as a minister of the Christian church. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Ella Clark, is a native of Ohio and a daughter of Milton and Sarah A. (Lee) Clark. Her mother was distantly related to the prominent and famous Lee family of Virginia.

Guy Clark Heckel, whose name introduces this review, obtained his early education in the public schools and afterward attended successively the college at Eureka, Lincoln University and the University of Lexington, Kentucky, being graduated from the last named institution with the class of 1900. The degree of Bachelor of Arts was conferred upon him when he attained his majority. He followed the insurance business for two years, but on the expiration of that period returned to this county and became identified with agricultural interests. The pursuits of farming and stock-raising have since claimed his attention and have returned to him a gratifying annual income. He has devoted his energies principally to the raising of horses, and is gradually extending his operations in this direction. He recognizes the need of larger and stronger horses for farm work, keeps Percheron stock and intends to purchase a large Belgian sire. He lives on his grandmother's farm of two hundred and eighty acres on section 14, Long Creek township, and as an agriculturist has already won a measure of success that entitles him to recognition among the substantial citizens of the community.

On the 16th of February, 1905, Mr. Heckel was united in marriage to Miss Mabel Baker, of Long Creek township, her parents being C. H. and Elizabeth (Williamson) Baker, natives of Ohio. Her father is a well known farmer here.

In politics Mr. Heckel is independent, supporting men and measures rather than party. For one term he ably discharged the duties devolving upon him in the capacity of township collector. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to Lodge No. 426 at Casner, and is likewise identified with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Kappa Sigma, a college fraternity. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Methodist church and he now acts as superintendent of its Sunday school. Mr. and Mrs. Heckel are people of the highest respectability and have a host of warm friends throughout the county.

EVERETT J. BROWN, M. D.

For more than twenty years Dr. Everett J. Brown has engaged in active practice at Decatur. By diligent attention to his profession he has built up a practice which extends all over central Illinois and has acquired a reputation in his profession which is not confined to the limits of the state. The respect in which he is held by his brethren is shown by the fact that at the present time he occupies the position of treasurer of the Illinois State Medical Society and is ex-president of the Decatur Medical Society. These honors came without solicitation on his part and as a just recognition of one who has devoted his life to the alleviation of the ills of humanity. Dr. Brown comes well by the talents which have gained him his present honorable position. His father, Josiah Brown, was for thirty years a leading physician of Decatur and the mantle which he gracefully wore rests easily on the shoulders of his son.

Dr. Josiah Brown was born at Witby, Canada, July 24, 1827, and was a son of Abraham and Bethsheba Brown, descendants of Quaker parentage of New England. Early in life he decided to become a physician and all his studies were pursued with that object in view. The death of his father when the boy was twelve years of age threw him largely upon his own resources. But after acquiring the necessary funds by teaching school, he matriculated at the Augusta Medical College, Georgia, then one of the leading medical colleges of the country, and, after graduation, began practice at Gaylesville, Alabama. There he was married to Miss Sarah E. Brown. Removing to Illinois, the Doctor lived for two years at Maroa and then settled permanently at Decatur in 1859. He departed this life May 6, 1889, sincerely mourned by the entire community. He was a Mason, a republican, a member for more than twenty-five years of the Presbyterian church and an able and successful physician. His widow is still living. Six children were born to Dr. and Mrs. Brown: two children of whom died in infancy; Minnie S., who died in 1881 at the age of eighteen years; Warren, a practicing physician of Tacoma, Washington; Everett J., whose name appears at the head of this biography, and Frederick A., a practicing lawyer of Chicago.

Everett J. Brown is a native of Decatur, born January 20, 1865. He was educated in the public schools and graduated from the Decatur high school at the age of eighteen, in 1883. He studied medicine under his father and also in the medical department of the Northwestern University of Chicago, graduating in 1888. He was interne at the Cook County Hospital in 1888-9, and took a post-graduate course of six months in the general hospital at Vienna, Austria, in 1898. He again took a post-graduate course in the New York Polyclinic and Post Graduate Hospital and in 1908 visited Europe a second time to become acquainted with the most advanced ideas of the leading minds on medicine and surgery. Few men, as indicated above, have ever shown a greater interest in their chosen calling and no pains or time have been spared in the effort to solve the difficult problems that face the physician in his daily practice.

Since 1889 Dr. Brown has been actively engaged in practice in the town where he was born, except when pursuing advanced studies in New York city or Europe. He makes a specialty of internal medicine and is associated with Dr. Cecil M. Jack, under the firm name of Brown & Jack, his biography appearing elsewhere in this volume. The practice of the firm increased so rapidly during the last few years that larger accommodations became necessary and a handsome building was erected on West Prairie avenue opposite the Young Men's Christian Association, into which the firm moved in July, 1910. Here fourteen rooms are occupied, consisting of office and reception rooms, consultation rooms, laboratories, operating rooms, X-Ray room, dressing rooms and every possible requirement that modern minds have devised for the reception and treatment of patients. These offices and accessories are conceded to be among the finest and most complete that are to be desired and visitors are surprised at the facilities there available. The reputation of Dr. Brown has made his services in demand all over central Illinois as consultant in many cases requiring the best skill possible to secure.

D. Brown has been twice married. His first marriage was with Rebecca C. Brown of Jacksonville, Illinois, in October, 1891. Mrs. Brown departed this life February 22, 1906. Three children were born of the union: Rebecca Alice, Lloyd and Everett Anson. On the 1st of October, 1908, Dr. Brown was united in marriage to Miss Jane Jack of Peoria, Illinois. One son, Francis Jack Brown, is the result of this union.

Dr. Brown is a member of the Presbyterian church, as was his father before him, and also belongs to the American Medical Association, the Illinois State Medical Society, the Mississippi Valley Medical Society, the Tri-State Medical Society and the Decatur Medical Society. Although his extensive practice makes heavy demands on his time and strength, he holds membership in the University Club of Chicago and in the Decatur and Country Clubs of Decatur. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias, whose principles of fidelity to promise and friendship in time of need he has many times exemplified.

The Doctor is a living example of the beneficient effect of right education and high ideals in the development of a useful and helpful career. In a striking degree we see here exemplified the refining influence of the home and the inviting field which is open in a free commonwealth to those who are rightly prepared and capable of bearing its honors. The position which has been attained by Dr. Brown has not come by chance but has called for years of patient study and faithful performance of duty as it appeared from day to day. No one knows this better than the practicing physician who gives a large part of his time to patients from whom he can expect small financial recompense or none at all. Yet he gives as freely and as conscientiously in such cases as if the patient were in the most affluent circumstances. Dr. Brown has endeared himself to people in all walks of life by his courteous manners, his liberality in support of all worthy causes and his skill in his profession. Hence he is usually recognized in central Illinois as among its most desirable citizens.

JOHN W. BOWERS.

John W. Bowers, a representative and successful agriculturist of Long Creek township, is the owner of two hundred acres of valuable land on section 28, known as the Springwood Stock Farm. His birth occurred in Washington county, Illinois, on the 30th of April, 1867, his parents being James J. and Jane E. (Carpenter) Bowers, both of whom were natives of Kentucky. The father was born in 1822, while the mother's birth occurred in the year 1830. They took up their abode among the early settlers of Washington county, Illinois, in 1845, James J. Bowers carrying on general agricultural pursuits as a means of livelihood. He passed away in 1874, while his wife was called to her final rest in 1909.

John W. Bowers attended the public schools in the acquirement of an education and after putting aside his text-books began working as a farm hand. He had no financial assistance at the beginning of his career but possessed plenty of energy and determination and these qualities have enabled him to gradually

advance toward the goal of prosperity. In 1888 he removed to Piatt county and there resided continuously until 1894. On coming to Long Creek township, Macon county, he purchased and located upon an improved farm of two hundred acres on section 28. Here he has carried on his agricultural interests continuously since and in connection with the tilling of the soil he also devotes considerable attention to the raising of stock, making a specialty of full blooded Hereford cattle and Poland China hogs. The property is known as the Springwood Stock Farm and is well improved in every particular, its neat and thrifty appearance indicating the supervision of a practical and progressive owner. Mr. Bowers has thorough knowledge of both farming and stock-raising and is justly entitled to a place among the leading and substantial agriculturists of the community.

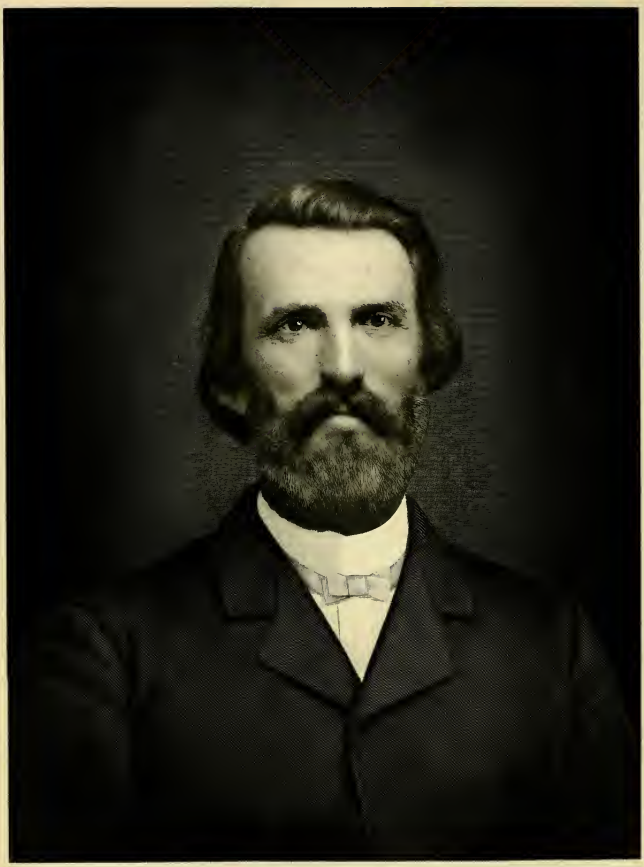
On the 19th of August, 1897, Mr. Bowers was united in marriage to Miss Lulu Kinser, a daughter of Lewis and Amanda (Turpin) Kinser, who were born in Ohio and Illinois respectively. The father was an early settler and prominent farmer of Mount Zion township, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Bowers now have five children, namely: Lucetta May, Florence, Ira John, Oliver, and Edith Jewel.

Politically Mr. Bowers is a prohibitionist, being a firm advocate of the temperance cause. At local elections, however, he casts an independent ballot, supporting the candidate whom he believes best qualified for the office in question. In religious faith he is a Methodist. His aid and cooperation can be counted upon to further every movement calculated to benefit the community, and he and his estimable wife are held in high regard by their many friends.

JAMES B. AUSTIN.

James B. Austin, who has lived in honorable retirement at Maroa since 1892, came to Macon county in 1856 and was for many years successfully identified with agricultural interests here. His birth occurred in Greene county, Ohio, on the 29th of April, 1829. His father, Jonathan Austin, was born in New Jersey on the 15th of December, 1799. The paternal grandparents of our subject were Abel and Prudence Austin, who left New Jersey with their family and journeyed to Ohio, residing in that state throughout the remainder of their lives. The grandfather first took up land in Warren county, Ohio, but later removed to Greene county. Jonathan Austin, the father of James B. Austin, purchased land in Illinois in association with our subject but never came to this state, passing away in Ohio on the 20th of April, 1874. His children were four in number, as follows: Justin, a resident of Ohio; Harry, whose demise occurred in that state; John, living in Dayton, Ohio; and James B., of this review.

The last named remained under the parental roof until twenty-one years of age, assisting his father in the operation of the old home farm. He was married on attaining his majority and for about six years following that important event in his life he resided in Bellbrook, Ohio, following the profession of teaching. In 1856 he came direct to Macon county, Illinois, locating on a farm



James B. Austin

Mrs. James B. Austin

of three hundred and twenty acres which he had purchased in association with his father. He at once began the further cultivation and improvement of the tract of one hundred and sixty acres which was his share and there carried on his agricultural interests continuously until 1892, when he put aside the active work of the fields in order that he might the more thoroughly enjoy the competence which his well directed labor had brought him. Purchasing a lot in Maroa, he erected a commodious and attractive residence thereon and has made his home therein for the past eighteen years. He still retains his farm of one hundred and sixty acres and likewise owns two lots in the town of Maroa.

On the 4th of July, 1850, in Bellbrook, Ohio, Mr. Austin was united in marriage to Miss Phoebe Ann Dunham, a daughter of Jonas and Rachel Dunham, who were born in New Jersey. Mr. and Mrs. Austin were the parents of four children, namely: Charles, who is a resident of Allen county, Kansas; Mrs. Alice Rogers, who passed away in 1908; Frank, who lives with his father; and Mrs. Anna Wendling, whose demise occurred in 1907. The wife and mother was called to her final rest on the 6th of April, 1902.

In politics Mr. Austin is a stanch republican and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, have called him to several positions of public trust. He has served as justice of the peace, has likewise acted in the capacity of assessor and was a school trustee. Fraternally he is identified with the Masons, belonging to Maroa Lodge, No. 454, A. F. & A. M. He has now passed the eighty-first milestone on life's journey and his career has ever been such that he can look back over the past without regret and forward to the future without fear. Macon county has been his home for fifty-four years and the circle of his friends here is a wide one.

JAMES F. STEELE.

Among those whose deeds of valor have found place in the military history of Illinois is James F. Steele, of Decatur. His record cannot fail to prove of interest to the readers of this volume, for he is widely known in the city where he makes his home and in which he has a circle of friends almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintances.

He was born in Springfield, Ohio, September 21, 1842, and in the paternal line comes of Irish ancestry. His grandfather was a native of Ireland, and on coming to America made his home in Bloomington, Illinois, with his daughter until called to his final rest at the very venerable age of ninety-seven years. His wife was seventy-two years of age at the time of her demise. Their son, Samuel Steele, was born in Virginia on the 19th of March, 1808, and in his boyhood days accompanied his parents on their removal from the Old Dominion to Pennsylvania, whence later the family went to Madison county, Ohio. It was in that county that he was married to Miss Prudence Fisher, who was born in 1801. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania and removed from the Keystone state to Ohio at an early period in the development of the latter state. There Mr. Fisher died at the age of ninety-nine years, while his wife

passed away at the age of seventy-two years. Following their marriage Samuel and Prudence (Fisher) Steele established their home in Springfield, Ohio, where they remained until 1857, when they came to Decatur, Illinois, here spending the residue of their days. The father died in June, 1877, and was laid to rest in the Decatur cemetery. For about eleven years he had survived his wife, who passed away in June, 1866. They had three sons who were soldiers in the Civil war, George R., Joseph and James.

Spending his youthful days in his parents' home in Ohio, James F. Steele attended the common schools of that state until he accompanied his parents on their removal to Illinois. After living for a short time at Bloomington, they came to Decatur. The father was a carpenter by trade and James F. Steele served an apprenticeship under him. He was learning the trade under the direction of his father when the Civil war broke out and President Lincoln issued his first call for troops.

Mr. Steele had watched with interest the progress of events in the South, and his patriotic spirit was aroused at the attempt of the Confederacy to overthrow the Union. Although but eighteen years of age at the time, he at once offered his services to the government and enlisted on the 16th of April, 1861—when the smoke from Fort Sumter's guns had scarcely cleared away. He was mustered in at Springfield as a private of Company B, Eighth Illinois Infantry, for three months' service, for at that time it was the general belief that the war would soon be over. From Camp Yates the regiment was ordered to Cairo, where it remained doing camp duty until the expiration of the term of enlistment. Mr. Steele, however, at once reenlisted on the 14th of August and again became a member of the Eighth Illinois regiment for three years' service. A contemporary biographer concerning Mr. Steele's military experience has written: "The regiment remained at Cairo until late in the fall, when it was ordered to Bird's Point, from there to Norfolk, where it made camp and remained for some time, and then returned to Bird's Point and went into winter quarters. On the 2d of February, 1862, the regiment embarked at Cairo and moved up the Tennessee to Fort Henry with General Grant's forces, where they disembarked and the first night Mr. Steele was placed on picket duty. It rained all night and he had to stand on logs to keep out of the water. In the morning they broke camp and started for the fort, making a detour of some six miles. In this march mountain streams were waded from knee to waist deep with a swift current. When he reached the fort he exchanged his wet uniform clothes for a citizens' suit, which he wore all through the Fort Donelson campaign, where he was actively engaged in an assault of that fort, being then in the First Brigade, McClernand's Division. On the arrival at the fort the Eighth had some skirmishing with the rebel pickets, and then formed in lines around the fort. The following night Mr. Steele was sent out as one of the pickets with instructions not to fire unless he saw the enemy advancing. The weather at first was pleasant, but before the siege was over it grew cold, rained, snowed and became very bad, and the soldiers suffered terribly, as they were not allowed any fire. What sleep the men had was secured in a standing position. Friday was spent mostly in skirmishing and maneuvering. On Saturday morning the enemy made an assault on the lines but were repulsed,

which brought on a general engagement around the entire line, in which the Eighth lost severely. This was the first active fight Mr. Steele had been in, and his fighting metal was severely tested. His regiment was changed from the right to the left and was under W. H. L. Wallace. Late in the day they received rations for the first time in two days. Night closed in with the enemy unsubdued and the Union troops rested on their arms. Early Sunday morning the white flag was seen to float from the enemy's works. Fort Donelson surrendered and the Union forces took possession of the work and remained in camp for a time and then marched to Fort Henry, where they embarked for Savannah, thence proceeded to Pittsburg Landing and went into camp about half a mile from Shiloh church. There Mr. Steele lay with his regiment until he was unexpectedly called out by the long roll, crossed the road leading to Corinth and formed in line of battle to the left in the edge of the timber, where they remained for a while with the bullets of the enemy passing over them from the fighting in front. They moved down and then opened fire; shortly the front line fell back and Mr. Steele with fifty of his regiment were left alone. They soon fell back but with lines badly broken, while the enemy's lines were intact. They soon formed, however, and checked the advance of the rebels, getting behind a road fence where they made a stubborn resistance and did some gallant fighting. His regiment was now consolidated with the Eighteenth Illinois, having about one hundred and fifty men, and were commanded by General Lieb. They charged the enemy and captured two guns. They lay on their arms during the entire night in a heavy rain, had had nothing to eat since the night before, having gone into action in the morning before breakfast. The next morning Buell's army passed them and soon opened the battle which relieved Mr. Steele and his command from active duty. Soon after the battle he was taken ill, which illness developed into typhoid fever. He was conveyed to a hospital tent, where he was left for a time, and then placed on board of a hospital boat which took him to Quincy. There he remained until he was able to be moved, when his father came and took him home to Decatur. He rejoined his regiment in July at Jackson, Tennessee. From there the regiment was ordered to Toons Station to guard the railroad, where it remained until it was ordered on the Tallahatchie campaign. It was found that Mr. Steele was unfit for active duty with his company on account of lingering illness, and he was detailed for duty in the quartermaster's department of McPherson's corps. He remained in this service until he was captured at Holly Springs, December 20, 1862, by Van Dorn's forces with all the stores at that place. There was no defense made. A few companies of the Second Illinois Cavalry under Major McPherson got out with little loss. Mr. Steele was paroled, sent to Memphis and from there to Benton Barracks, spending a portion of the time under parole at Decatur, but reporting every two weeks at parole camp. He finally received permission to go home and report by letter every ten days. He remained at home until June 20, 1863, when he went to Benton Barracks and from there was sent to Vicksburg, thence up the Yazoo, arriving at their point of destination on the evening of July 3. Cannonading was still going on when they landed but had ceased before they were unloaded, by reason of the flag of truce raised on the enemy's works. On

the morning of July 4, Mr. Steele rode into Vicksburg with General McPherson's staff officers. August 1st he was assigned to duty by Colonel Coolbaugh as agent of the railroad at Big Black, where his duties were about the same as an agent in the civil service. He remained on duty there until June 1st, when the government abandoned the road and he was ordered to report to General McPherson's headquarters, then at Big Shanty, Georgia, and was detailed in the mail service, carrying mail from Chattanooga to the general's headquarters. He continued in this mail service until the death of McPherson, and then brought his horse as far as Louisville and was there ordered to report to the regiment at Vicksburg. He waited there for a time for the regiment and then intercepted it and was mustered out August 15, 1864, by reason of expiration of term of service. His next move was to Natchez, where he engaged with a sutler for a time and then went to New Orleans."

When the war was over and the country no longer needed his aid, Mr. Steele returned to Decatur, in June, 1865, and has since made his home in this city. On the 16th of October, 1870, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Ganley, of this city, who was born in Ireland. They became the parents of one child, Stasia.

The rigors and hardships of war greatly undermined Mr. Steele's health, and since 1882 the government has given him a pension. His political views have ever been in accord with the principles of the republican party, and on the 6th of April, 1910, he was elected to the position of town clerk of Decatur, in which capacity he is now acceptably serving. On the 18th of April, 1866, he became a member of Original Post, No. 1, G. A. R. This organization ceased to exist in 1869, and in 1888 he joined Dunham Post, with which he is now identified. In 1893 he was elected senior vice commander and thus served for a year. He was afterward elected commander for a year and served as officer of the day for four years. He was then chosen to the position of adjutant and has acted in that capacity for a long period, being the present incumbent. He is very popular and prominent among his fellow members of the Grand Army post and throughout the community is known as a genial gentleman, whose many sterling characteristics have won him the high regard of all with whom he has come in contact. During his long residence in Decatur he has become widely known, and all speak of him in terms of high regard.

JOHN W. DUVALL.

Indomitable energy and unfaltering perseverance, when guided by careful, conservative management of business affairs, seldom fail in the acquirement of success, and such has been the record of John W. Duvall. Self-made and almost wholly self-educated, he has, during the years of his active connection with business interests, worked his way forward until today he is ranked among the most substantial and prosperous residents of Whitmore township. One of Ohio's native sons, he was born in Belmont county on the 14th of July, 1848, and is a son of Elihu Duvall, who, although born in Pennsylvania, was reared in

the Buckeye state, to which his parents had removed in his early childhood. The family home was established in Belmont county, and there he grew to manhood and was married. For some years he was identified with agricultural pursuits in that locality and then, in 1857, came to Illinois, making permanent location in Macon county. The winter of that year was spent in Decatur, and in 1858 the family took up their abode in Whitmore township, where the father was engaged in operating a rented farm for a few years. Later he purchased eighty acres of wild prairie land, which formed the nucleus of what later became the Duvall homestead. Bending his efforts to its development and improvement, it was not long before he had converted the tract into productive fields which he continued to cultivate until his death, which occurred in 1863. He was long survived by his wife who, in her maidenhood, was Castary Jones, a native of Ohio.

Coming to Macon county as a lad of nine years, John W. Duvall has, therefore, spent almost his entire life within its borders. The educational privileges afforded him were limited to those offered by the district schools of that day, which he attended during the winter months, but it is principally to his later reading and observation that he owes his present broad and comprehensive knowledge. His early practical training, however, was not neglected, and in the fields and about the home farm he spent the seasons of vacation, becoming familiar with the tasks that usually fall to the country lad. Amid the busy activities of rural life he also learned many lessons concerning the value of industry, perseverance and integrity, and the wholesome environment of the farm was conductive to a healthy growth and the acquirement of good habits. He continued to live on the old homestead, to which he succeeded at the time of his father's demise and in the cultivation of which he has since been engaged. From time to time, as fortune favored, he invested in more property adjoining the original farm on the east, and is today the owner of two hundred and eighty acres of rich and valuable land. In 1904 he erected a neat, up-to-date residence equipped with all of the most modern improvements including furnace heat, gas light and hot and cold running water and surrounded by a neat lawn inclosed within an iron fence. He also has built substantial barns and commodious outbuildings, and well kept fences protect his fields. In fact the farm is one of the best tilled and highly improved properties in the township and stands as a monument to a life of well directed effort and intelligently applied labor. Tilling the soil, however, has not been his only vocation, for he has given considerable time and attention to successful stock-raising interests, raising and feeding cattle, hogs and horses. He makes a specialty of hogs and horses, and the superior quality of his stock commands ready sales and good prices on the market.

It was in 1882 that Mr. Duvall was united in marriage to Miss Alice Vulgamott, who was born and reared in Macon county and is a daughter of John Vulgamott, a native of Ohio. She passed away in March, 1899, and was laid to rest in Union cemetery. Besides her husband, seven children survived to mourn her loss, three sons and four daughters, as follows: J. W., Jr., a business man of Decatur; Dollie, at home, who took the census of Friends Creek township in 1910; Nellie, who is keeping house for her father; Fay, who received thorough

comprehensive training in the State Normal School and is now engaged in teaching in Macon county; Wilbur, Anna and Russell E., all at home.

Mr. Duvall is a member of the Argenta Presbyterian church, as was also his wife, and in the public life of the community he has been a prominent figure. A stanch advocate of the principles of the republican party, he has voted for every presidential nominee on that ticket since casting his first vote for General U. S. Grant. His standing among his fellow citizens is indicated by the fact that he has again and again been called to accept public office, serving on the township board as assessor for four consecutive years and as township trustee for six years. In 1910 he was elected supervisor of the township and is now filling that position. He has served on the petit jury, has been sent as delegate to various county conventions, has served for years as township committeeman and is now a member of the committee on roads and bridges. That he is a stalwart champion of the cause of education is indicated by the fact that he has been identified with the schools of the county as director for the past twenty years. The same qualities which made him a successful business man have characterized his public service and the promptness and thoroughness with which he has fulfilled the duties of each office in which he has served have won him the approval and commendation of every citizen, regardless of party ties. Public-spirited and progressive in his citizenship, no measure or movement which has for its object the material, political, intellectual or moral development and upbuilding of the community lacks his hearty cooperation.

A long residence in Macon county has made J. W. Duvall widely and favorably known to a large circle of friends which is almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintances, and he is recognized as one of the most progressive, substantial and successful business men of the locality. His personal traits of character are such as speak for valuable and desirable citizenship in any community, and in both public and private life by the consensus of public opinion he has been tried and not found wanting.

LEONARD A. WAGONER.

Leonard A. Wagoner is one of the well known farmers and stock-raisers of Oakley township, owning and cultivating a tract of land of one hundred and sixty acres on section 6 and also an equal amount on section 7. He also has another tract of eighty acres on section 6, his possessions therefore aggregating four hundred acres. He is numbered among the early settlers of this part of Illinois in that he has been a resident of Macon county since 1865. He was born in Carroll county, Indiana, July 16, 1853, and is a son of John Wagoner, who was born in the Hoosier state and was there married to Miss Barbara Blickenstaff, who removed to Indiana from Ohio. The father was a farmer in Carroll county, thus providing for the support of his family, which included three children. Subsequently he removed to Iowa, but soon returned to Indiana, and in 1865 came to Macon county, subsequently settling upon the farm where his son Leonard now resides. He cultivated this place for a num-

ber of years and the family was reared on the home farm. Following her husbands' death, Mrs. Wagoner removed to Cerro Gordo, where she spent her last years, dying there about 1904. In the family were four sons and two daughters: Leonard A.; Daniel, now living in Indiana; Noah, who reached mature years and was married but is now deceased; Isaiah, living in Idaho; Katie, the wife of John M. Shibely, of Long Beach, California; and Amanda, the wife of J. B. Metzger, of Cerro Gordo.

Leonard A. Wagoner was reared on the old home farm, having been a resident of Macon county from the age of twelve years. He remained with his mother until he had attained his majority and largely assisted her in the work incident to the development and improvement of the place. He was married in Cerro Gordo township, in 1882, to Miss Martha Miser, who was born in Indiana but was reared in Illinois. Following his marriage, he purchased seventy acres of land in Long Creek township and turned his attention to its cultivation. He made some improvements upon that place and continued to till the fields for nine years. He then sold out and returned to the old homestead. He began here with one hundred and twenty acres, which he brought under a high state of cultivation and improved with modern equipments. From time to time he has added to this property until he now owns four hundred acres, all of which is fine farm land. It responds readily to the care and labor which he bestows upon it, and his property is now one of the excellent farms of this part of the county.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Wagoner have been born two sons and two daughters: William, who is cultivating his father's place of one hundred and sixty acres on section 7; David B., who was educated at Mount Morris, Illinois, and aids in carrying on the home farm; Ida May, at home; and Cora Fay. Both daughters were also educated at Mount Morris. Another daughter, Dora, died at the age of fifteen months and one daughter in infancy. In his political views Mr. Wagoner is a republican but has never sought or desired office. His religious faith is that of the Church of the Brethren and his membership is in the Brick church. He has been a resident of the county for forty-five years and is numbered among its active and prosperous citizens, possessing good business ability and at all times enjoying the confidence and esteem of his fellowmen because his business activity balances up with the principles of truth and honor.

OSCAR B. CROSS.

Oscar B. Cross, who was elected overseer of the poor of Macon county on the 20th of October, 1910, has already proven himself well fitted for the position. His birth occurred in Christian county, Illinois, on the 13th of June, 1858, his parents being J. Wilson and Sarah A. (Hurst) Cross, both of whom are deceased. They passed away in Christian county, the father dying on the 24th of September, 1909, while the mother was called to her final rest in 1894. They reared a family of seven children, five of whom are yet living, as follows: Mrs. D. J. Cartwright, who is a resident of Blue Mound township, this

county; Mrs. Mary M. Duff, of Sangamon county; Oscar B., of this review; Mrs. A. E. McMillan, likewise of Blue Mound township; and L. T., who follows farming in Harristown township, Macon county.

Oscar B. Cross was reared to manhood on the farm where his birth occurred and attended the district schools in the acquirement of an education. He came to Decatur in August, 1892, and on the 20th of June of the following year was appointed patrolman under Mayor D. C. Moffitt. He served as an efficient officer of the police department until December 6, 1910, when he was suspended by the present mayor, C. M. Borchers. As police officer he served continuously under the following mayors: D. C. Moffitt, D. H. Lehman Conklin, B. Z. Taylor, G. W. Stadler, C. F. Shilling, E. F. G. W. McDonald and C. M. Borchers. During his service as a patrolman he remained on one beat on Franklin street for eight years, his being the roughest patrol in the city. In addition to his duties in this connection, he has served the Powers Opera House as an officer each evening for eleven years, still holding that position at the present time. He is justly proud of his career as a policeman, having a clear record and having never been called before a mayor or chief of police for conduct unbecoming an officer. On the 20th of October, 1910, he was elected overseer of the poor of Macon county, being one of nine candidates and receiving sixteen votes out of the twenty-two cast by the supervisors of this county. He was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of R. J. Roberts, a pioneer of Decatur. His record as a public official also covers five years' service in the capacity of health officer.

Mr. Cross has been twice married and is the father of five children, his eldest son being Lyman C. Cross, who was born of the first marriage. For his second wife he chose Miss Laura Harris, a native of Kentucky, by whom he has the following children: Sarah A.; Lloyd Wilson; Russell S.; and James Nelson, named in honor of Judge William E. Nelson, who performed the marriage ceremony in Decatur. Fraternally Mr. Cross is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America, belonging to Camp No. 144, and also to the encampment. His fellow townsmen entertain for him warm friendship and kindly regard, and he is highly esteemed by all who know him.

LEONARD H. CASSITY.

Leonard H. Cassity, a prosperous and representative citizen of Decatur, is at the head of the Cassity Electric Company, doing contract work and dealing in general electrical supplies. His place of business is located at No. 357 North Main street and his home is at No. 1330 North College street. His birth occurred in Lucas County, Iowa, on the 30th of December, 1876, his parents being J. C. and Eliza (Allen) Cassity. The father, who was born in Indiana in 1856, accompanied his parents on their removal to Iowa when nine years of age and has since been a resident of that state. The pursuits of farming and stock-raising have claimed his attention throughout his entire business career and he still de-

votes his time and energies to the work of the fields with excellent results. His wife, who was the second in order of birth in a family of twelve children, was born in Iowa, March 28, 1859, and passed away on the 1st of January, 1897. Our subject is the elder of two children, his sister being Ethel A., who was born August 28, 1881, and makes her home with her father.

Leonard H. Cassity obtained his early education in the public schools of Chariton, Iowa, graduating therefrom in 1897. Later he spent a year in Parsons College of Fairfield, Iowa, and then studied in James Millikin University of Decatur for two years. After completing his education he entered the service of the Western Electric Company at Chicago, remaining in the employ of that concern for four years. On the expiration of that period he returned to Decatur and on the 15th of December, 1908, embarked in business on his own account, opening an office in the Home Telephone building at No. 219 North Main street. On the 15th of February, 1910, he removed to his present location at No. 357 North Main street and is now conducting a good business, doing contract work and dealing in general electrical supplies. He keeps in touch with the notable progress that is manifest in the electrical world and is qualified to put his knowledge and ideas into practical use in the conduct of the business in which he is now engaged. His enterprise is incorporated under the name of the Cassity Electric Company.

In 1907 Mr. Cassity was united in marriage to Miss Ola McIntosh, a daughter of T. R. and Mary McIntosh, residing near Forsyth, Illinois. She was the eldest child in a family of three children, having been born January 16, 1884. Mr. and Mrs. Cassity now have two children, namely: Ronald, whose natal day was March 15, 1908; and Carroll, whose birth occurred December 15, 1909.

In politics Mr. Cassity is a republican, while his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Presbyterian church of Russell, Iowa. He is likewise a worthy exemplar of the Masonic fraternity and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to Lodge No. 614, A. F. & A. M., at Forrest, Illinois, and Decatur Lodge, No. 85, I. O. O. F. His life is upright and honorable, his many good qualities winning for him the high regard of all who know him.

MARTIN E. CONNARD.

Martin E. Connard, a prosperous and leading resident of Elwin, is successfully engaged in business as a grain merchant. He is numbered among the worthy native sons of this county, his birth having here occurred on the 16th of May, 1868. His father, Charles E. Connard, who was born in Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, on the 6th of November, 1829, was a son of John and Dorothy (Schriver) Connard and a grandson of Ebenezer Connard. The last named was a native of Bucks county, Pennsylvania, and came of German ancestry. Charles E. Connard, the father of our subject, was the eldest child and only son in a family of five children, his sisters being Hannah, Sarah Ann, Catharine and Angeline, all of whom are deceased. In 1840 he came to Illinois

with his parents, locating on the farm near Elwin which remained his place of abode during the rest of his life. General agricultural pursuits claimed his attention throughout his entire business career and during the last thirty years of his life he was likewise actively engaged in the grain business, being associated with his sons in that business. He was uniformly respected and esteemed and became widely recognized as one of the substantial and progressive citizens of the county. At the time of his arrival this state was still but sparsely settled and largely undeveloped, and the work of progress and improvement remained to the future. During his lifetime Mr. Connard not only witnessed a most wonderful transformation but largely aided in the labors which transformed the wild tract into a splendid commonwealth. He became a charter member of the Elwin Methodist church in 1849 and for sixty years acted as one of its stewards, holding that position at the time of his demise, which occurred on the 27th of September, 1899. The farm on which he passed away had been his home for a period of fifty-eight years. In 1855 he had wedded Miss Nancy N. Eager, by whom he had nine children, of whom our subject was the sixth in order of birth. The wife and mother was called to her final rest on the 30th of September, 1878, and the following year Mr. Connard was again married, his second union being with Miss Elizabeth J. Rozzel, of Macon county, by whom he had three children.

Martin E. Connard obtained his early education in the public schools of this state and later spent part of a year as a student in the Northern Illinois Normal School at Dixon. After putting aside his text-books he entered the grain establishment of his father and brother at Elwin and in 1897 purchased an interest in the business and has since had charge thereof. After the father's death he and his brother, G. S. Connard, of Decatur, bought the interest of the other heirs in the grain business and now control the business. In the spring of 1902 Mr. Connard of this review organized a telephone system, building lines through the country districts. In May, 1910, however, he sold out to the Macon County Telephone Company, of Decatur, and at that time had one hundred and sixty-five subscribers. He still owns stocks and bonds in that concern, however, and likewise inherited a part of his father's estate, which has not yet been settled. In 1902 he erected a beautiful modern residence in Elwin and has since made his home therein. His connection with any undertaking insures a prosperous outcome of the same, for it it in his nature to carry forward to successful completion whatever he is associated with. He has earned for himself an enviable reputation as a careful man of business, and in his dealings is known for his prompt and honorable methods, which have won him the deserved and unbounded confidence of his fellowmen.

On the 30th of June, 1898, Mr. Connard was joined in wedlock to Miss May Hopkins, who was born on the 20th of February, 1876, her parents being Samuel S. and Emmaretta (Williams) Hopkins, natives of Ohio. Our subject and his wife now have two children, namely: Lucile, whose birth occurred in March, 1899, and Harold, whose natal day was July 20, 1900.

In politics Mr. Connard is a republican and for the past three years has capably served in the office of town clerk. He acts as recording steward in the

Methodist church at Elwin and his wife is also a devoted member thereof. That many of his stanchest friends are numbered among those who have known him from his boyhood to the present time is an indication that his has been an honorable, upright life and one worthy of the esteem in which he is uniformly held.

EDMOND S. BAKER.

Edmond S. Baker, manager of Dreamland Park and one of the well-to-do and popular citizens of Decatur, was born on a farm near Warsaw, Indiana, July 5, 1850. He is the son of Jacob S. and Elizabeth A. (Leathers) Baker, and is the third in a family of five children who grew to maturity. His father died at Salem, Illinois, in 1872, but his mother is still living in Decatur at the advanced age of ninety-four years. Jacob L. Baker, a brother of our subject, was a valiant soldier of the Civil war, first enlisting for three months but at the expiration of that term reenlisting for three years. The war being still in progress when he received his second discharge, he enlisted once more and served until after the rebellion had been entirely suppressed. He was a real fighter and was slightly wounded once, and at another time was captured by the enemy, but made his escape. He came to Decatur and here he died. Henry A. Baker, another brother, was also a soldier. He served in the artillery and was injured while in the discharge of duty. He served as clerk in the barracks for a time after his partial recovery but was later honorably discharged from the army. After returning home he recovered his strength and organized a military company, of which he was elected first lieutenant. He served in a creditable manner until the close of the war, and after the return of peace studied medicine at Louisville, Kentucky, and is now in practice at Decatur.

At six years of age Edmond S. Baker moved with his parents to Summit county, Ohio, where the father became the owner of a mill four miles from the city of Akron. There our subject grew to manhood and received a common school education, preparatory to his introduction to the stern realities of life. As a boy he learned the milling business at his father's mill, but in 1865 the family settled in Marion county, this state, where he became acquainted with the father of William Jennings Bryan. At eighteen years of age he began work for himself, receiving thirteen dollars a month, and later took charge of a mill owned by his father, which was operated by water and which he conducted for about two years. After the death of his father, he removed to Christian county and at twenty-six years of age was married, his father-in-law presenting him and his wife with a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. However, not feeling entirely in sympathy with agricultural pursuits, he sold the farm and entered the livery business at Decatur in 1885, which he conducted with marked success for about ten years. Since 1908 Mr. Baker has been manager of Dreamland Park, one of the beautiful resorts of the city, covering ten acres, of which he was formerly the owner and where he made his summer home. The park had been in operation several years before he assumed its management, and from the time of its inception, he has been one of its heavy

stockholders. Previous to the time of his assuming the management, the park had been a losing proposition for the stockholders, being in debt almost fifteen thousand dollars at the beginning of the season of 1908. Under Mr. Baker's management all of this indebtedness has been paid except four thousand dollars at the close of the season of 1910, this after paying all running expenses, upkeep of buildings, etc., and also building and fully equipping one of the largest roller skating rink in central Illinois.

In February, 1876, Mr. Baker was united in marriage to Miss Frances E. Osborne, a daughter of Robert and Phoebe Osborne, of Christian county. Mr. and Mrs. Baker are both members of the Methodist Episcopal church and his wife was organist, while he sang in the choir previous to their coming to Decatur. He affiliates with the republican party, but has strong independent tendencies, often voting for the man, irrespective of his political associations. Socially he is connected with the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America, and is in hearty accord with the fraternal teachings of those orders. Mr. Baker has made many friends by his genial manners and public spirit, and is greatly respected wherever he is known.

EDGAR HOOTS.

Edgar Hoots, recognized as a public-spirited citizen of Macon county, has for the past two years been a member of the county board and received endorsement of his first term's service in a reelection in the spring of 1910. Macon county numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred near Oakley on the 9th of December, 1872. His father, Alexander Hoots, was born in Tennessee and was a son of John Hoots, likewise a native of that state. He and his family removed to Illinois about 1855, settling in this county, where Alexander Hoots was reared to manhood. Later he married Louisa Haney, a native of Illinois. To provide for his family he followed the blacksmith's trade, conducting a shop in Oakley for a number of years. His last days were here passed, his death occurring April 13, 1909, when he was sixty-three years of age.

Edgar Hoots, one of a family of five sons and one daughter, was reared in Macon county and educated in the common schools. Early in life he began clerking and was thus employed for a few years, receiving a good practical business training. He later learned the blacksmith's trade, which he followed for seven years at Milmine, Illinois. In 1901 he opened a shop at Oakley and began work at his trade here on his own account. He is a natural mechanic, very handy with tools, and does with expert ability any work in his line. He has in his smithy an engine and machinery and is therefore prepared for various kinds of work. In this connection he has built up a good business, having now a liberal and well merited patronage.

On the 14th of September, 1896, in Oakley, Mr. Hoots was married to Miss Minnie Williams, who was here born and reared. They have four sons: Herman, Melvin, Harold and Virgil. In politics Mr. Hoots has been a lifelong republican and his fellow townsmen, appreciative of his worth and ability,

nominated and elected him to the position of supervisor from Oakley township in 1908, and in 1910 reelected him. He has been a member of the county board for over two years and is proving capable and faithful in the discharge of his duties. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp and has served as its secretary for seven years. He also has membership relations with the Odd Fellows, joining the lodge at Cerro Gordo, where he filled all of the chairs. He started in life a poor boy without capital and his success has been won through his own efforts. He is not only a good workman, but is also a man of business integrity and reliability and enjoys the confidence and good will of the entire community.

WILLIAM E. REDMON.

William E. Redmon, state's attorney of Macon county, is a native son of Illinois, who won his way by faithful service to the responsible position he occupies and has discharged its duties in such a way as to meet the approval of all political parties and the high regard of the best citizens in every walk of life. He was born in Jasper county, Illinois, on the 25th of May, 1859. His parents, John W. and Martha (Wheeler) Redmon, were both born in Richland county, this state, of pioneer parents who were among the very early settlers of Macon county. The grandparents on the Redmon side were natives of Hardin county, Kentucky. The history of the family goes to show that they were married in that county and on the next day started on a wedding trip with an ox team through the almost untrodden forest and across stream and prairie to Richland county, Illinois, where they entered government land, upon which they lived until their death. This brave couple endured all the pioneer hardships. Grandmother Redmon was one of the remarkable women of the times and lived to be four score years of age. She was born in 1810 and died in 1891. Grandfather Wheeler was a native of Vermont and his wife was from Kentucky. Upon coming to Illinois, then upon the frontier, he first located at Alton and became connected with the river traffic, making several trips to New Orleans, where his father died of yellow fever. He also preempted government land in Richland county and lived there until his death.

John W. Redmon, the father of William E. Redmon, was a farmer and stock-raiser of Jasper county, Illinois. He died December 26, 1891, at Normal, Illinois, where he was living temporarily for the purpose of educating his children. The mother is still living and resides with a son and daughter at Oakland, California. She has reached the age of seventy-four years, and is greatly loved by her children and respected by friends who know of her sterling qualities. Five sons and four daughters were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Redmon: Mary A., the wife of George W. Beavers, of Marshall county, Kansas; William E., the subject of this record; Elizabeth, the wife of John W. Stitt, living near Toledo, Illinois; Daniel B.; James T., of Oakland, California; Catharine, the wife of Columbus Wolfe, living near Oakland, California; Eva, the wife of I. N. Warner, of Wisconsin; John A., residing at Berkeley, California; and Jesse, who died in infancy.

Born and reared on a farm, William E. Redmon is essentially a product of conditions that have produced much of the brain and sinew of our country. He attended the country schools in winter and worked on the farm in summer. His early life was spent largely out of doors in close contact with nature, whose moods he learned to interpret and whose charms he freely acknowledges. He attended the State Normal School at Carbondale and also taught school in Cumberland, Jasper and Richland counties, reading law on holidays, Saturdays, and at night. After the requisite period of study in the office of Hon. John Packard, of Olney, Illinois, he was admitted to the bar in 1888 and at once began practice at Latham, Illinois. Here he continued for four years, then removing to Decatur, where he has since continued. In 1900 he was elected state's attorney and was twice reelected—in 1904 and 1908, his present term expiring in 1912. This is the only public office Mr. Redmon has ever filled. His honest and impartial discharge of responsibilities of the position has met with cordial cooperation and acceptance and his record is one which he can regard with pride.

On January 31, 1882, Mr. Redmon was united in marriage to Miss Della Wilkerson, of Richland county, and two sons and five daughters have been born to them: Minnie B., Roscoe W., James, Ralph, Blanche, Blossom, Martha and Mary. Mrs. Redmon and daughters are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and the home of the Redmon family is the abode of peace and contentment. Mr. Redmon is a man of broad sympathies who quickly responds to all calls, from whatsoever direction, that deserve recognition. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and Modern Woodmen of America. He has always been unassuming in manner and his aim has been to acquit himself as one who recognizes justice and right and whose highest desire is to perform his duty from day to day as he sees it. His life has been conducted entirely upon constructive principles, and he long since learned that the superior man is the one who has the superior mind. These are the lessons he strives to impress upon his children and it is the idea here conveyed that has gained for him an honored place in the esteem of the people of the wide region throughout which he is known.

WILLIAM B. ROBINSON.

William B. Robinson, residing at 875 West Wood street, Decatur, is one of the valiant men who responded to the call of duty nearly half a century ago and went to the front to assist in the battle for the Union. Little did he dream at the time of his enlistment of the sufferings on the march or in prison which he later endured; but his courage never failed even under the most distressing circumstances and he lived to receive an honorable discharge at the close of the war.

He was born in Buffalohart, Sangamon county, Illinois, May 29, 1838, and is a son of James T. and Minerva (Starr) Robinson, the former of whom was born in Yorkshire, England, January 21, 1808. At twenty-one years of age the father settled in Sangamon county and there he lived until 1872, when he

was called away. The mother was born in Clark county, Kentucky, January 9, 1815, and died at the old home in Sangamon county. Grandfather Robinson was a native of England and grandfather Starr of Virginia. The latter was born in 1777 and emigrated to Kentucky, where he married Mary Carson, a native of Baltimore, Maryland. They came to Illinois in the great movement which continued for many years from the south and gave to this state many of its best citizens. Grandfather Starr died August 15, 1839, and his widow thirteen years later, in 1852.

The subject of this review was educated in the public schools of Sangamon county and continued upon the home farm assisting in its operations until he was twenty-four years of age. On August 25, 1862, he enlisted in Company I, One Hundred and Fourteenth Illinois Infantry, and was mustered in at Camp Butler, Illinois, under Captain King, who was later promoted to a colonelcy. The regiment participated in many of the great battles and expeditions of the Army of the West and our subject was present at the battle of Jackson, Mississippi, for eight days at the siege of Vicksburg and at the battle of Guntown, also taking part in many skirmishes. On June 10, 1864, during the battle of Guntown, he was captured and with a number of his companions was sent to Andersonville Prison. Here he remained for three months when he was conducted to Savannah, then to Millen, back to Savannah and later to Florence, South Carolina, where he spent a second period of three months behind the stockade. On the approach of Sherman's army the prisoners were removed to Goldsboro, North Carolina, and on February 25, 1865, our subject was paroled and the next day released at Wilmington, North Carolina. He experienced many great sufferings, but being blessed with a strong constitution he was able to withstand the hardships of prison life although many of his comrades succumbed. He was in the hands of the enemy from June 10, 1864, until February of the following year, a period of more than eight months. After spending a short time on furlough at home he was ordered to St. Louis, where he was honorably discharged, the war having come to an end. Returning once more to Illinois Mr. Robinson resumed touch with the affairs of private life and after acquiring a competence located in Decatur, where for some years he has lived retired.

On the 21st of February, 1867, our subject was united in marriage to Miss Arminda Burns, who was born in Sangamon county, December 30, 1844. She is a daughter of John R. and Lucy A. (Cass) Burns, the former of whom was born in Jessamine county, Kentucky, October 9, 1803, and came to Sangamon county in 1828, where he spent the remainder of his days. The mother was born in Pike county, Kentucky, January 15, 1813, and also died in Sangamon county. Grandfather Thomas Burns was a native of Alexandria, Virginia, where he was born August 1, 1773. He came to Sangamon county in the early days with his wife, Elizabeth. Grandfather Robert Cass was born in 1768, in Iredell county, North Carolina, and was also one of the early settlers of Sangamon county. His wife, who was Lucy Riley before her marriage, died in Pike county, February 13, 1809. Two children have been born to William B. and Arminda Robinson. John B. was born January 12, 1868, and is now engaged in the lumber business in Decature. He was married to Stella Cowgill, who was born in Macon county. Two children resulted from this union: Helen Alice, born August 14,

1902; and Isabelle, June 3, 1906. The second child of Mr. and Mrs. Robinson is Alice Cary, who was born October 4, 1872. She married Frank Pitner, of Decatur, who departed this life in January, 1902.

Mr. Robinson was a good soldier and as a private citizen he has always attempted to perform his duty not only to the state but to those with whom he has associated. He is now numbered among the elderly residents of the city and is regarded with the honor that is accorded those who by their upright lives have earned the respect of the community. The old soldiers are rapidly passing to their final reward and it is with pleasure that this permanent record is here presented of one who proved himself inded brave and true.

JAMES A. HENSON.

The world generally accepts a man at the estimate he places on himself, provided it is backed up by plenty of grit and directed by good, strong common sense. Early in life James A. Henson became possessed with a laudable ambition to win for himself an honorable name—an ambition which has carried him through many difficulties that would have appalled a less resolute man, and today he holds a high place in one of the most eminent of the professions, represents in the state senate one of the most intelligent communities in the state and has gained the respect and confidence of a circle which not only includes the county of Macon but many people throughout the state who are acquainted with his abilities and recognize in him a reliable and stanch supporter of any cause that aims to advance the permanent welfare of his fellowmen. Senator Henson has fairly won this enviable position by earnest endeavor, which will always redound to his credit.

A native of Illinois, he was born in Monroe township, Shelby county, on the 25th of April, 1874. His grandparents came from Sweden to America and settled in Virginia, where his father, James Henson, was born and reared. Like many young men of the Atlantic states, he was attracted toward the west and removed to Kentucky, where he met Julia Keen, to whom he was married. Mrs. Henson, who is still living and resides at Decatur with her son, James A., was born in Kentucky. The mother of twelve children, she has always been devoted to the interests of her family and in her declining years receives the many attentions prompted by the tenderest sentiments of love. The father was a farmer and later followed teaming. He lived for a time in Shelby county, Illinois, but finally settled in Decatur, where he died July 22, 1899. He was an honest, hard-working man and during his active career occupied only one public office, that of constable in Shelby county.

From his earliest years James A. Henson was inured to labor and responsibility. He was the youngest member of the family and had limited opportunity for education, his labors being required in the support of a large family, toward which each member was expected to contribute his share. He attended the public schools and had the advantage of one term at Millikin University, working between times at anything he could find to do. As a boy he assisted

James. Atlas. Henson.

by selling newspapers on the streets and at the railway depot, and he gathered not a few nickels in shining shoes. He was not ashamed to work at any honorable occupation and the practical training he then received has been one of the greatest forces in his life. As he grew older he worked on the farm, learned the barber's trade and in the brickyard gained a thorough acquaintance with the brick-making trade. While developing the physical he did not lose sight of the mental side of his nature and the law presented allurements which a young man of strong individuality and robust ambition could not resist. He began the study of law, entered the Wesleyan College at Bloomington, Illinois, and was graduated from the law department of that institution with the title of LL. B. in 1906. He was admitted to practice the same year and from the beginning has maintained his office in Decatur, where he had previously built up an enviable reputation and where his life was known by all men. From the start he has been successful at the bar in more than the ordinary degree and although he has been in practice only four years, he is recognized as one of the well established practitioners of Decatur county.

Senator Henson has been connected with public office for a number of years and has acquitted himself in a way that evidently met the approval of his constituents. He was elected supervisor before he was twenty-one years of age and held the office seven years. In 1904 he was chosen as state senator and his record was such that he was reelected to the same office in 1908 with a handsome majority. He has acted as presiding officer pro tem of the senate; chairman of the committee on mines, mining and manufactures; chairman of the visitation committee of penal institutions; chairman of the committee on mines, mining and labor for the session of 1909; member of the judiciary committee; also other important committees, among them the committee on judicial department and practice.

Few men in public life are more earnest in their efforts to advance reasonable regulations to protect life, health or welfare of the working class than Senator Henson. He introduced the Shotfire bill, pertaining to coal mines, which was passed and is now a law. He introduced the act now in force in Illinois to provide for the health, safety and comfort of employes in factories, mercantile establishments, mills and work shops; also the bill limiting the hours for the employment of women—a vexed question which attracted state-wide discussion for years previous to its final acceptance as an abiding principle in the laws of the state. It may here be explained that a similar act was passed by the state legislature in 1894 but the act was declared unconstitutional by the supreme court of the state. Subsequently the principle was upheld by the courts of Oregon and the case was appealed to the supreme court of the United States where it was held that the state has a right to enact such a law, overriding the supreme court of Illinois upon the decision from the court of final jurisdiction being known. The committee on mines, mining and labor of the Illinois senate reported favorably upon a bill as designated above and both branches of the legislature acting favorably upon the measure, it was duly signed by the governor and became a law. Again the question was carried to the supreme court of Illinois; the court reversed itself and the bill stands today as one of the most advanced legislative measures of recent years. It is a monument to the

men who fought in season and out of season in favor of what they deemed to be a solemn responsibility in behalf of thousands who had no direct voice in making the laws. The work which Senator Henson accomplished in securing the passage of this and other important measures in the legislature has endeared him to workers not only of his native state but of many states where similar legislation is anxiously awaited. While nearly all the leading manufacturers of the state were arrayed against the bill it is confidently believed that the time will come when they will acknowledge the justice of the measure.

On the 25th of December, 1895, Senator Henson was united in marriage to Miss Clara May Northland, who was born and reared in Decatur. This union has been blessed by one child, James E. Senator Henson is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Bricklayers' Union. It has been said by profound students that no man has ever yet discovered the extent of his powers. Some of these students go so far as to declare that we have never actually used more than one-tenth of our capabilities. Judging by the work which is being accomplished by many young men of the present time as compared with thousands similarly endowed who preceded them, there appears to be a great deal of truth in the statements. "Every man has in him an undiscovered continent, and happy is he who acts the Columbus to his own soul." This is a beautiful sentiment, and it applies in its true meaning to men like the subject of this memoir who have literally carved their way to recognition, and all the record that is required is a simple recital of their acts. Such men are the backbone of the republic and a complete refutation of the charge that circumstances control the man. To such every laudable avenue is open, every door swings upon its hinges, every worthy ambition bids—"Come, Forward."

CLAUDE WARREN WARD.

Claude Warren Ward, an enterprising and progressive agriculturist and dairyman of South Wheatland township, cultivates a farm of one hundred and forty-one acres on section 16. His birth occurred in Macon county, Illinois, on the 3d of January, 1881, his parents being John and Martha (Le Master) Ward, who were likewise natives of this state, the former born on the 12th of September, 1842, and the latter on the 6th of February, 1844. John Ward was the sixth in order of birth in a family of eight children, while his wife was the second child born in a family of four. Their marriage was celebrated on the 29th of November, 1866. The father of our subject was a farmer by occupation, and also bought and shipped high grade stock on an extensive scale, dealing principally in Marmaduke roadsters and Poland-China hogs. During the Civil war he fought as a defender of the Union for three years, enlisting in Company E, Forty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and being mustered out at Springfield, Illinois, on the 15th of August, 1865. He participated with his regiment in the famous battles of Vicksburg and Jackson and also took part in numerous other hotly contested engagements. At the battle of Vicksburg he was wounded and carried from the field as dead but revived and was placed

in the hospital at Belle Island, where he remained for four months. Upon his recovery he was paroled for thirty days, at the end of which time he rejoined the army and was again wounded in the engagement at Jackson, Mississippi. He was treated on the field for his injuries and remained in the service until the cessation of hostilities between the North and the South. At the time of his demise, which occurred on the 17th of May, 1892, he was a member of Dunham Post, G. A. R., at Decatur. His political allegiance was given to the republican party and he served as supervisor for several terms, and also acted as township collector and assessor, ever proving a most capable and trustworthy public official. His widow, who still survives, is a devoted and consistent member of the Christian church.

Claude W. Ward, whose name introduces this review, was the sixth in order of birth in a family of eight children, five of whom are yet living. His four sisters are as follows: Rosa, at home; Minnie, a resident of Decatur, who is the wife of Adam Phillips and has four children; Maud, living in South Wheatland township, who is the wife of Leonard Kraft and has one child; and Mattie, who is the wife of Bert Wallace and resides in Decatur.

Claude W. Ward attended the public schools of this state in the acquirement of an education, and after completing his studies, worked on the home farm, assisting his father in its operation until the latter's death. Since that time he has managed the place for his mother, and in connection with the tilling of the soil is also engaged in the dairy business. The farm comprises one hundred and forty-one acres of rich and productive land on section 16, South Wheatland township, and in its cultivation he has met with excellent results, annually gathering bounteous harvests which find a ready sale on the market.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Ward has supported the men and measures of the republican party, believing that its principles are most conducive to good government. He has resided in Macon county from his birth to the present time and is widely recognized as one of its prosperous and popular young citizens.

WILLIAM H. DAVIS.

William H. Davis, manager for the Western Union Telegraph Company at Decatur and a man who stands high in the esteem of the people wherever he is known, was born in Union City, Indiana, October 8, 1856, and is the son of Royal H. and Sarah A. (Wilson) Davis, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Indiana. The father and mother are now living in Union City and have arrived at the ages of seventy-six and seventy-three years respectively. They were married in 1855 and eight children were born to them. The father learned the blacksmith's trade, which he followed until he retired from active labor in 1895.

Being the eldest son in a large and growing family, William H. Davis early began to face the world. He received his education in the public schools and

at the age of sixteen entered the general office of the Western Union Telegraph Company at Chicago, beginning as messenger boy and applying himself diligently to the study of telegraphy, so that he was soon placed at a key and worked in Chicago about eight years. He was then sent by the company to various points in the United States and after acquiring a thorough knowledge of the vocation to which he has devoted the best energies of his life, in 1887 he was appointed manager for the company at Decatur and has continued in that position ever since, conducting affairs so intelligently that the company's business has very greatly increased and under his supervision is constantly growing.

In 1888 Mr. Davis was united in marriage to Miss Myra R. Smith, a daughter of Abraham and Minerva (Martin) Smith, both natives of Illinois. She was born in 1859 and is the second child in a family of three children. Mr. Davis is socially identified with Macon Lodge, No. 8, A. F. & A. M., and also Celestial Lodge, No. 186, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; Camp No. 144, Modern Woodmen of America; and Camp No. 26, Court of Honor. His study of political questions has led him to accept the principles of the democratic party as those best adapted for the perpetuity of the republic but in local issues he votes independently. He and his wife are active members of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Decatur and have many friends in the city where they have made their home for so many years, in the course of which they have become closely identified with the religious and social interests of the community. Mr. Davis was fortunate in the selection of a wife who during all their married life has presided over a happy household. He early acquired habits of application and industry that have been to him of inestimable value, and by a life in which he has been guided by worthy ideals he has gained the confidence and respect of the best people in the community.

GEORGE W. REYNOLDS.

George W. Reynolds is well known as one of the representative citizens of Whitmore township. He has been prominent in connection with public offices and also as a leading farmer and stock-raiser of the community, devoting his time and energies to the cultivation and improvement of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He was born in Piatt county, Illinois, February 22, 1852.

His father, Miner Reynolds, was a native of Pickaway county, Ohio, born in 1810. There he grew to manhood and was married to Miss Susanna Brady, also a native of that county. Following their marriage Mr. Reynolds followed farming in Ohio for a number of years and about 1849 removed westward to Illinois, settling in Piatt county, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits for a number of years. He next became a resident of Whitmore township, Macon county, where he purchased land and developed a farm. Upon this property he reared his family and spent his remaining days, his death occurring in 1876. His wife had passed away a number of years before, when George W. Reynolds was a child. In the family were three sons and six daughters, all of whom reach mature years, while one brother and three sisters are yet

living, the brother being James Reynolds, now of Kansas. The sisters are: Mrs. Madden, of Decatur county, Iowa; Martha, the wife of Phil Bowser, of Colorado; and Mrs. Miranda Hester, a widow living in Smith county, Kansas.

George W. Reynolds was reared upon the home farm in Macon county, for he was but a young lad which his parents removed to this part of the state. His early education, acquired in the common schools, was supplemented by a year's study in the State University at Iowa City, Iowa. He devoted four years to herding cattle in the west, particularly in Nebraska, and then returned to his native state. In November, 1880, he was married in Piatt county to Miss Ida M. Shaff, who was born and reared in Ohio, a daughter of Michael Shaff, who removed from the Buckeye state to Illinois.

Following his marriage Mr. Reynolds rented land and engaged in farming for a few years in Piatt county. He also bought and sold land while living there and eventually invested in the one hundred and sixty acres upon which he now resides. This he at once began to farm and his labors are manifest in the excellent improvements upon the place and in the neat and thrifty appearance of the fields. He has erected a good residence, together with substantial barns, corn cribs and buggy sheds, and he has also tiled and fenced the fields. There are fruit and shade trees upon the place of his planting and in fact the excellent appearance of the farm is attributable entirely to his intelligently directed labors. In connection with the tilling of the fields he has raised and fed stock but makes a specialty of raising grain.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds have been born five sons and four daughters: Cecil D., who aids in carrying on the home farm; Bert, now of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, where he is employed as an electrician after having previously studied for seven years in the Millikin University, of which he is a graduate; John, a telegraph operator, now at home; Roy and Carl, who are still under the parental roof; Janetta, the wife of William Campbell, a farmer of Whitmore township; Mabel, Fay and Marie, all at home.

In his political views Mr. Reynolds has been a lifelong republican. He cast his first ballot for president for General U. S. Grant in 1872 and has supported each presidential nominee of the party since that time. Locally, however, he votes an independent ticket, regarding only the capability of a candidate. He was appointed supervisor to fill out an unexpired term and later was elected and reelected until his service as a member of the county board covered six years. He also was elected a member of the town board and served as assessor for one term. On other occasions he has assisted in assessing the township. While a member of the county board he was appointed one of three to investigate the tax index system for keeping the county records and, making favorable report upon this, it was adopted and has proved a great saving of time and expense. He also served on a number of important committees while a county supervisor, acting as a member of the committee in charge of the county farm for about five years. He retired from office in 1910 with a most creditable official record. With little interruption he has been identified with the board of education for many years and the cause of the public schools finds him a stalwart and helpful champion. He has served as a delegate to county and state conventions of his party and also on petit and grand juries. His life has been

characterized as of signal usefulness to his fellowmen and at all times has been actuated by high and honorable principles.

His wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Argenta. He belongs to the Masonic lodge at Argenta and Decatur chapter, R. A. M., and was formerly a member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Argenta. He is one of the most progressive farmers, enterprising business men and public-spirited citizens of Whitmore township, enjoying and meriting the high regard and confidence of all with whom he has come in contact. His friends are many and all who know him entertain for him warm regard.

CHARLES E. TANDY.

The office of county treasurer in a great commonwealth such as Illinois is a prize coveted by many, but few there be that win. The winners are usually men of well proven conservatism, of good judgment in business affairs, of unexceptionable character and regarded by the tax-paying interests as safe conservators of the public money. These requirements are not always easy to meet, but in the case of Charles E. Tandy, whose name appears at the head of this biography, the conditions seemed in the minds of the voters to be complied with and for two years past the duties of the treasuryship have rested on his shoulders. Having been a resident of Macon county for forty years past, he is well known and the utmost confidence is felt in his ability and faithfulness.

Born in Morgan county, Illinois, Sepember 13, 1862, Charles E. Tandy is still on the sunny side of fifty years and is in the prime of life. He is the son of George W. and Catherine E. (Scott) Tandy, both of whom were born in Kentucky. The father came to Morgan county when a lad, in 1834, and the mother about ten years later. It was a new country. The warlike Indians had departed to the western side of the Mississippi river and a great influx of population from Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and states of the east poured into a land described as one of the most attractive and productive in America. At first only the valleys along the streams were cultivated, but after the introduction of iron plows for breaking up the tough soil of the prairies the state began to move into place as the chief agricultural region of the Union. The father of Mr. Tandy, who was one of the men to assist in breaking the virgin prairie, is still living, a survivor of the pioneer days when the state of Illinois was in its infancy. He and his wife located in Macon county in 1870, settling on a tract of eighty acres in Harristown township, of which Charles E. is now the owner. Mrs. Tandy passed away in 1905, after a long life of unselfishness and usefulness.

Charles E. Tandy was reared upon a farm and attended the country school, later taking a course of study at Brown's Business College, Jacksonville, Illinois, and also in the business college at Springfield, Illinois. Although he has from choice and natural ability been a practical farmer from the beginning of his career, he has taken advantage of educational facilities and enriched his mind

with ideas of the best thinkers. Having a taste for politics, he served as town collector of Harristown and was for two years a member of the board of review. Coming into a wider field as the years passed, he was appointed deputy county treasurer under W. T. J. Cooper, serving in that capacity one and a half years. The death of Mr. Cooper in 1908 created a vacancy, which was filled by Mr. Tandy under appointment of the county supervisors until the fall election of 1908, when he was duly elected by the voters of the county for the full term of four years. His administration has given general satisfaction and has greatly heightened the respect entertained for his unfailing courtesy to all alike and many desirable traits of character in one holding a position of responsibility. His social qualities are exemplified also by membership in the Masonic fraternity, of whose protective principles he has for years been an earnest advocate. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, recognized as one of the strongest beneficiary orders on the continent.

Mr. Tandy was united in marriage, February 3, 1887, to Miss Caroline L. Talbott, who is a native of Harristown township, and they have four children: Edna F., deputy in the office of the county treasurer; Willis C.; Clarence L.; and Hobart E. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and aim to exemplify by their lives the teachings of the book of books. From farmer boy to county treasurer of one of the great counties of Illinois is a long step and implies genuine worth and a life founded on principles of generally acknowledged stability. That this step has been made by the present incumbent of the office is an incentive which others may profitably note, for there is no position in the gift of the people which it is not possible for the ambitious, deserving man to attain.

WARREN FOLLANSBEE HARDY.

There is no doubt that the newspapers largely control public opinion in America. Here the press has a freedom known nowhere else in the world and here the newspaper business has been brought to its highest degree of efficiency not only in gathering the news but in disseminating it to the millions of readers. The general consensus of opinion is that a free press is a necessity in a free government and all wrongs will in the end right themselves even in the realm of the newspaper. If a newspaper takes undue advantage of its freedom or fails to present the truth it will in the end receive merited condemnation. If a newspaper consistently maintains high ideals it will gain the confidence of its readers and its influence will be in proportion to the sincerity with which it adheres to what is just and true.

Warren F. Hardy, the subject of this review, is a representative of that branch of the press which aims to maintain an honorable standard and thus to gain and retain the respect and confidence of the people. As managing editor of the Decatur Herald for three years past, he has displayed those qualities that count for most in the journalism of the country, and has gained an enviable reputation in Decatur and Macon county as a man of marked ability in a difficult profession and a citizen whose great object it is to upbuild the community.

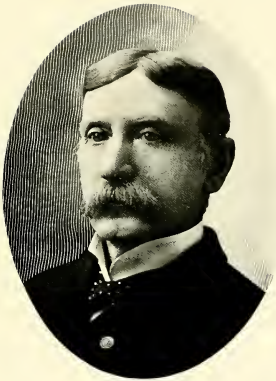
He was born at Blue Hill, Maine, December 14, 1878, and is a son of Daniel W. and Lydia (Follansbee) Hardy, the father being a minister of the Congregational church.

The subject of this review was reared in a genial home and early possessed advantages of training that have had a controlling influence on his life. In 1896 he was graduated from the Waterville, Maine, high school, after which he attended Colby College for two years, then entering Amherst College, graduating from the latter institution in 1900 with the degree of A. B. Mr. Hardy lost no time in beginning upon his life work. He had a natural liking for the newspaper and immediately after leaving college became connected with the Lowell (Mass.) Mail as a reporter. Here he received his introduction to the calling for which he has proven to be eminently adapted. We next find him as court reporter on the Springfield (Mass.) Union and from this position he became city editor of the Evening Union and later city editor of the Morning Union, being also night editor of the same paper for three years, thus securing a varied experience that has qualified him for any position in the newspaper field. In January, 1908, he came to this city as managing editor of the Decatur Herald and has filled this office with an ability that has met with the general approval of the people of the city and also of readers in central Illinois where the Herald has an extensive circulation. Under his management the paper has been greatly strengthened and its sphere of influence extended. He is a clear and forcible writer and has gained just recognition among his brethren of the state press as one of the wide-awake and progressive newspaper men of the modern school, who are capable of a comprehensive grasp of the great issues which effect the state and control the destiny of the nation.

On June, 22, 1910, Mr. Hardy was united in marriage to Miss Olive Belle Milner, formerly woman's editor of the Decatur Herald. Mr. Hardy is a republican in politics and a member of the University Club, of which he was president 1910-1911. In college he was a member of the Zeta Psi fraternity and his religious belief is indicated by his membership in the First Congregational church of Decatur. In the course of his life he has aimed to deal justly and judge gently and in his career as a journalist he has been governed by a moderation that makes more binding the ties of society and strengthens those relations by which men recognize each other as in a common brotherhood.

HON. WILLIAM F. CALHOUN.

Hon. William F. Calhoun, postmaster of Decatur, to which position he was appointed by President McKinley in 1897, since which time through reappointments he has continuously filled the position to the satisfaction of the general public, was born in Perry county, Pennsylvania, November 21, 1844. His parents were John and Catharine (Kiner) Calhoun, who were also natives of the Keystone state. The Kiner family is of Holland-Dutch lineage. The Calhouns are among the oldest and most prominent American families. The paternal grandfather, John Calhoun, a representative of one of the early families



W. F. CALHOUN

of Perry county, Pennsylvania, was married in that county in 1794 to Miss Jane Dill. He was a contractor and builder and his son and namesake, John Calhoun, Jr., followed the same pursuit. Both died in Perry county, Pennsylvania. The latter was a very prominent and influential resident of his community and by the vote of his fellow townsmen was called to fill several local offices. He married Catharine Kiner, and unto them were born three sons and two daughters; William F.; Winfield Scott, who resides at Tuscola, Illinois; Jennie, deceased; John Dill, a resident of Winona, Illinois; and Ella, the wife of Edward Hill, of Des Moines, Iowa.

In taking up the personal history of Dr. William F. Calhoun we present to our readers the life record of one who is most widely and favorably known in Decatur and throughout this part of the state. His early education, acquired in the public schools of Pennsylvania, was supplemented by an academic course at Mount Dempsey, that state. But when seventeen years of age his spirit of patriotism surmounted all else in his life, and he joined the army, putting aside his text-books for that purpose. He enlisted as a member of Company H, One Hundred and Thirty-third Pennsylvania Infantry, and was connected with the Fifty Army Corps. He was continuously at the front with his command, participating in the battles of Bull Run, Antietam, South Mountain, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. In January, 1864, he reenlisted, joining the Twentieth Pennsylvania Cavalry, and was made orderly sergeant of Company K, with which he continued until the close of the war, being present at Appomattox at the time of the surrender of General Lee. He was on active duty under General Sheridan during the term of his second enlistment and participated in a number of hotly contested battles and skirmishes, including the engagements at Winchester, Cedar Creek, Fisher's Hill, Toms Brook, Waynesboro, Five Forks, Sailors Creek and Appomattox. Following the close of the war he was mustered out at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in August, 1865, having done faithful duty in defense of his country upon the long hard marches and on some of the battlefields where shot and shell fell thickest.

The war over, Dr. Calhoun returned to his old home but was not satisfied in Pennsylvania, and in October of the same years came to Illinois, first settling in La Salle county. There he studied dentistry and for twenty-three years pursued his profession in Seneca, Farmers City and Clinton, Illinois, but in 1889 he retired from practice and came to Decatur, where he turned his attention to the newspaper business, establishing the Dispatch, which was later consolidated with the Herald. With this newspaper he is still identified as president of the company. For years he was the editor of the Herald and under his management the journal was brought to a prosperous condition, which it still enjoys. He wielded a trenchant pen and his clear, concise and forcible presentation of vital questions and subjects made the Herald a welcome visitor to many a household.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Dr. Calhoun has been a stalwart advocate of the republican party and its principles, and has been honored with a number of public offices. In 1882 he was elected to the state legislature and was reelected for three successive terms. In 1887 he served as speaker of the house and was regarded as a most excellent legislator, always

just and wise in his rulings. Moreover, when occupying a seat with the other members of the house he took an active part in promoting constructive legislation, serving at different times on all of the important committees and was on the steering committee that elected John A. Logan to the United States senate. He was prominently identified with all the important questions that came up during his connection with the assembly, sought the welfare of the state in his support of all bills that were presented, and at no time occupied an equivocal position but stood fearlessly in defense of what he believed to be right. In November, 1897, Dr. Calhoun was again called to office in his appointment to the position of postmaster by President McKinley. For thirteen years he has occupied this position, his services being entirely satisfactory to the general public. A new postoffice building was erected in 1908 under his administration, at a cost of eighty-four thousand, seven hundred and eighty-two dollars, and the site on which it stands was purchased for twelve thousand dollars. It occupies the place where formerly stood the home of the Hon. William E. Nelson. The building is modern in construction and equipment, is light and well ventilated and is one of the best buildings used exclusively for postoffice purposes in the state. It is an ornament to the city and a credit to the effort of Dr. Calhoun.

On the 22d of August, 1869, Dr. Calhoun was married to Miss Blanche Derthick, a native of Ohio, and unto them have been born five children: Maude, the wife of Rev. E. K. Towle, of Taylorville, Illinois; Nellie, the wife of F. S. Dodd, manager of the Decatur Herald; John C., a resident of Des Moines, Iowa; Catharine, the wife of Victor R. Lougheed, of Chicago; and Richard B., at home.

Dr. and Mrs. Calhoun are members of the First Methodist Episcopal church and he is identified with the Knights of Pythias and with Dunham Post, No. 141, G. A. R. of which he has been commander. His life record in all of its associations has won for him honor and regard, being characterized by fidelity to duty and by capability in the discharge of all of the tasks which have devolved upon him, whether in personal, business, political or social relations. His engaging personality and genial disposition have won him many friends, and he is justly accounted one of the representative citizens of Decatur.

MAHLON HAWORTH.

Mahlon Haworth, for many years a leading citizen of Decatur, now deceased, was born on a farm in Clinton county, Ohio, August 20, 1809. He was the son of Mahlon and Phoebe (Frazer) Haworth, the latter a native of Berks county, Pennsylvania, and of Scotch descent. The Haworth family on the paternal side is of English origin. It is said that the first of the Haworths to come to America were James and Thomas, one of whom settled in Pennsylvania and the other in Virginia early in the history of the American colonies. The Haworths were members of the Society of Friends from the time of its organization in England. Mahlon Haworth, the grandfather, was a native of Virginia and lived

there until the Revolutionary war. The father of our subject, who was born near Winchester, Virginia, settled in Pennsylvania but later removed to Knoxville, Tennessee, where he lived for several years and where two of his children were born. In 1790 he located in Warren county, Ohio, when that region was a wilderness and neighbors were far apart.

Mahlon Haworth was sixth in order of birth in a family of nine children. He received his preliminary education in a log schoolhouse, the school being in session only a few weeks each winter. Being ambitious for further advancement, he attended school at Xenia and Wilmington, Ohio, and made such progress that at eighteen years of age he began teaching and continued for four years.

On August 20, 1830, Mr. Haworth was united in marriage to Miss Sarah J. Woolman, of Clark county, Ohio, a member of the same family as John Woolman, famous as a Quaker preacher and an early advocate of the abolition of slavery. In 1832 Mr. Haworth went into the mercantile business in Warren county and later at Port William, Clinton county, Ohio. However, being attracted in other directions, he sold out his business in 1835 and engaged in farming and in operating a sawmill. He served as justice of the peace and as postmaster at Port William and was known as one of the leading citizens in that region. In 1853, believing that more favorable advantages lay westward, he emigrated to Illinois and for three years lived upon a farm in Sangamon county. In 1857 he came to Decatur, where he spent the remainder of his life, being called away April 25, 1893. From 1859 to 1869 he was identified with the grain business, but in the latter year the firm of Haworth & Sons was organized for the manufacture of the Haworth Check Rower, which was used in planting corn and became highly popular in all parts of the country.

There were nine children born to Mr. and Mrs. Haworth, two of whom died in infancy. Three sons are now living, L. L., George D. and James W. Uriah, the second son, died in 1852 in his twenty-first year, at St. Joseph, Missouri, while en route for California. Mahlon F. enlisted in 1861 in the Seventh Illinois Cavalry and served in Missouri, Tennessee and Mississippi, participating in many of the leading battles of the war. At Colliersville, Tennessee, he was taken prisoner and later was confined at Belle Isle and Andersonville and died in the latter prison on account of hardships and exposure. Annie M. is the wife of Kilburn H. Roby, of Decatur, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Mary P. is the wife of George S. Simpson, a record of whom appears elsewhere in this work. The mother of this family passed away December 24, 1891.

The subject of this review was identified with the old line whig party and supported Henry Clay for president in 1832. After the republican party was organized he became a stanch adherent of its principles. Having observed the evils of slavery, he was unalterably opposed to that institution as a constant menace to the republic. Although he did not seek political honors, he served most acceptably as a member of the city council of Decatur. As a business man he attained wide recognition and in the discharge of the various responsibilities of life, displayed a foresight and ability that reflected great credit upon him-

self and those with whom he was associated. His name justly belongs among those of the leaders who assisted in the upbuilding of Macon county and no history of this county would be complete without adequate mention of Mahlon Haworth as one of the enterprising and progressive men of his day.

GEORGE S. SIMPSON.

For over fifty years a resident of Decatur, George S. Simpson has witnessed the growth of the city from the time it was a village and has been closely identified with a region which is now one of the most flourishing portions of the Union. Born in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, May 13, 1843, he is the son of Nathaniel and Margaret (Sprankle) Simpson, who were both natives of the Keystone state. The family was founded in America by his grandfather, David Simpson, a farmer and miller, who came from Ireland and located in Indiana county, where he reared a family of three sons and one daughter. The grandfather on the maternal side was Frederick Sprankle, of good Teutonic ancestry, who emigrated from Germany and settled in Jefferson county, Pennsylvania, where he followed farming and milling. The father of our subject engaged in farming in Pennsylvania until 1855, when he removed to Keokuk, Iowa. A year later he went to Assumption, Illinois, and a short time before the Civil war went to Denver, Colorado. He served as a scout in the west under Buffalo Bill and enlisted in the Seventh Colorado Cavalry, showing such capacity that he became major of the regiment but lost his life shortly afterward. He was a man of high character and while living at his home in Pennsylvania served as deacon in the Presbyterian church, his wife also being a member of the same denomination. She lived to the advanced age of ninety-three years and was called to her reward while making her home with our subject at Decatur, March 19, 1909. There were four children in the family: Agnes, the wife of R. C. Cochrane, of Assumption, Illinois; Elizabeth, the wife of Robert C. Laforgee, of Decatur; Emma C., the wife of Elmer R. Culver, of Decatur; and George S., our subject.

Coming with his parents to Illinois at thirteen years of age, the subject of this review possessed meager advantages of education in his boyhood, but he has always been the possessor of large powers of observation and in the years that have passed has in an important degree made up for the unavoidable lack of early training. His education has been gained mainly in the great school of practical experience—a school whose lessons make even a more profound impression than those secured from books. He engaged in various business pursuits until he formed a connection with Haworth & Sons, manufacturers of farm machinery at Decatur, being the originator of improvements in the manufacture of the check rower which were still indispensable in its manufacture. He traveled as salesman for this firm, covering a wide territory which included the states of Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois and Iowa, and he became one of the most successful salesman identified with the firm. In his various business affairs Mr. Simpson has used sound judgment and has long since attained a position of comparative financial independence.

On the 25th day of April, 1866, Mr. Simpson was united in marriage to Miss Mary P. Haworth, a daughter of Mahlon and Sarah J. (Woolman) Haworth, a record of whom appears elsewhere in this work. The wife of our subject was the youngest child of her parents and was born in Port William, Clinton county, Ohio, coming to Decatur in 1856. Here she was educated in the public schools and grew to womanhood. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Simpson. George H., born September 11, 1867, was married December 4, 1889, to Miss Grace Blume, a daughter of George P. Blume, of Decatur, and one son, George B., was born to them. His wife having been called away, George H. Simpson was married, April 25, 1898, at Springfield, Illinois, to Miss Mina Matheney. They are now living in Decatur and have one son, Haworth, born February 28, 1899. Fred was born August 26, 1872, and departed this life February 14, 1896, at the age of twenty-four years, at Los Angeles, California. Mrs. Simpson is a member of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Simpson cast his first vote in 1864 for Abraham Lincoln as president of the United States and has never departed from his allegiance to the republican party. He served for six years in the city council of Decatur and during that time was instrumental in securing a number of improvements that have been of practical value to the city. In the course of many years in active business affairs he has made a host of friends and they have always found him absolutely upright, sincere in the discharge of every obligation and a willing supporter of every worthy cause. That he has met with well deserved success in his undertakings is the opinion of all who know him.

CHARLES A. HECKEL.

Among the residents of Long Creek township, Macon county, it is probable that none holds a higher place in the estimation of the people than Charles A. Heckel, whose name stands at the head of this review. Born in this township, May 5, 1849, his life has been an open book and his character for sincerity and straightforward thinking and living has never been questioned. He is recognized as a valued public-spirited citizen, a man whose word is as good as his bond and a scholar of varied accomplishments. He is also a Christian in the full meaning of the word. Although closely identified with the farming interest, he is also prominently connected with the Christian church and is one of its most zealous workers, giving fully of his means as well as of his time and talents, and in every way seeking to advance the permanent welfare of those with when he is associated.

Mr. Heckel comes of good German ancestry on his father's side and on his mother's side traces his lineage to the same ancestry as Abraham Lincoln. His father was John Joseph Heckel, who was born at Erfurt, Prussia, May 4, 1810. He was educated at Wittenberg University, and served for three years in the Prussian army. He was a man of fine education and especially versed in the languages. About 1834 he came to America and settled on a small tract of land in Macon county and became one of the prosperous farmers of the county. The

mother of our subject, Elizabeth Hanks before her marriage, was a native of Hardin county, Kentucky, where she was born April 23, 1822. She was married in Macon county, May 3, 1840. Mrs. Heckel was a second cousin of Abraham Lincoln and a playmate of Mr. Lincoln in his boyhood. She was a woman of many excellent qualities and a faithful wife and mother. She was called from earthly scenes at the age of seventy years, on February 2, 1892, and four days later her husband passed from mortal view. Of the family of Mr. and Mrs. Heckel six children are now living.

The subject of this review was reared upon a farm and early showed a strong inclination for a scholastic career. After advancing as far as possible in the studies available at the district schoolhouse, he became a student of Eureka College, Woodford county, leaving the college before graduation. After teaching school for six years he learned the blacksmith's trade, which he followed for ten years. However, he had an irresistible desire for further investigation in the fields of learning and he returned to Eureka College and graduated from that institution with the degrees of A. B. and B. S. in 1895. Accepting a call to the ministry of the Christian church, he occupied for about ten years the pulpits of various churches of the denomination, among which was the home church of Antioch in Long Creek township. He subsequently resigned from the ministry and has since devoted his attention largely to farming. He is the owner of a highly improved farm of eighty acres in section 14, Long Creek township. Here he occupies a comfortable home and has been quite successful as an agriculturist and live stock raiser.

On July 3, 1879, Mr. Heckel was united in marriage to Miss Ella M. Clark, of Long Creek township, a daughter of Milton and Sarah A. (Lee) Clark. She is a descendant on her mother's side of the noted Lee family of Virginia and was born in Ross county, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Clark came to Illinois in 1856 and here the family prospered in the farming industry. Mrs. Clark is now living retired in Decatur. Two children have blessed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Heckel: Guy C., born July 24, 1880 and Roy A., born August 25, 1893. Mr. Heckel still continues as a zealous worker in his church, although in a private capacity, and is one of the largest contributors toward the construction of the new church building now in course of erection. He has been for a number of years actively identified with the Hanks Family Association and has been one of the principal speakers at the annual gathering of descendants of this family, now numbering over two hundred. He is president of the association, which meets in Fairview Park every summer, and a worker who has contributed very largely toward keeping up the interest of its members.

Mr. Heckel has made a careful study of political and social conditions of the United States and the world and as a result is a strong advocate of prohibition as a cure for many of the evils with which mankind is afflicted. He has never sought political honors but prefers to attend to his own affairs when not working in the vineyard which the Great Master pointed out as one of the most important fields to which any human being can devote his attention. Thoroughly earnest in whatever he undertakes, Mr. Heckel never does anything by halves and as a result his labors seldom go amiss. He is a good farmer, a generous neighbor and a lover of his family, who never tires in advancing the welfare of

others and asks no recompense, feeling that it is a duty which all should discharge to the extent of their ability. In his wife and family he has been greatly blessed and therefore, he may rightly be designated as fortunate,, especially in having found the "pearl of great price," which after all is worth more than all the riches and honors the world can bestow.

JOSHUA GREEN.

Joshua Green is now one of the venerable citizens of Whitmore township, a man whose well spent life has gained him the honor and respect of those with whom he has come in contact. His home is on section 31 and a good farm property there returns to him a substantial annual income. During the period of his residence in this section of the state he has become an active and helpful factor in many public matters and has therefore been justly numbered among the enterprising farmers and progressive citizens.

England claims him as a native son, his birth having occurred in Yorkshire on the 3d of October, 1826. There he grew to manhood and was only about twenty-four years of age when he crossed the Atlantic to the new world. He arrived in 1850 and made his way at once into the interior of the country, settling in Greene county, Illinois, where later he was married to Miss Hannah Dodson, who was born and reared in this state. His sister afterward joined him in Greene county, where he resided for a few years, and then removed to Christian county, where he entered two hundred and forty acres of land from the government for himself and two hundred and sixty acres for friends. With characteristic energy he began improving and developing his farm, which he continued to cultivate successfully for a number of years. In 1864, however, he sold that property and removed to Macon county, purchasing land in Whitmore township. His first investment made him the owner of a tract of two hundred acres on which improvements had been made, including the planting of an orchard. Subsequently he erected a commodious brick residence and as he prospered in his undertaking he purchased more land from time to time, so that he now owns a farm of three hundred acres which is very valuable and highly developed. None of the equipment of a model farm property is lacking and the place today returns a good income to the owner, so that in the evening of his days he has all those things which add so much to the comfort of life.

Mr. Green votes with the republican party and has ever been unfaltering in support of its principles. He came to this county in 1864 and the following year was elected supervisor over Whitmore township. Several times he was reelected to that office and was a member of the county board, being reelected four times. He was made a member of various important committees and while acting on both the township and county boards his work constituted an important element in promoting the welfare of the district which he represented. He has likewise served as asssessor, as highway commissioner and as township school trustee and treasurer for thirty years. Moreover he was the first to discuss and agitate the subject of a township mutual insurance company which

later was organized with Mr. Green as president, in which position he continued until the charter expired. Then the Macon County Insurance Company was established and he became one of its stockholders and directors, continuing to serve on the board of directors until 1905, when he resigned.

In 1910 Mr. Green was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who passed away on the 25th of February of that year, leaving a son, Charles, who is one of the well known and prominent men of Macon county. He was born in Christian county in 1858, was reared upon the home farm and was educated in the common schools and the high school of Decatur. Later he learned the machinist's trade in Decatur and afterward followed it in Peoria and Ottawa, owning an interest in the business in the latter place. He was also a traveling salesman for several years but in July, 1910, returned home to relieve his father of the care and management of the farm and is today numbered among the active, enterprising and successful men of the community. Edward Wilson Green, another son of Joshua Green, died April 7, 1908, in his fifty-first year.

Mr. Green has made his home in Whitmore township for forty-six years and has long since firmly established himself in the high regard and good will of his fellowmen. His life has ever been upright and honorable and his sterling character has given him firm hold upon the affections and regard of those with whom he has been brought in contact. He is today one of the venerable citizens of the community and no record of Whitmore township would be regarded as complete without mention of Joshua Green.

T. J. SCROGGIN.

Among the prominent citizens of Macon county who are now enjoying a hard earned rest from long years of faithful labor in the field of agriculture may be named T. J. Scroggin, whose home is a comfortable residence at No. 666, West Decatur street, Decatur, Illinois. Mr. Scroggin is the owner of twelve or thirteen hundred acres of land in Macon county, pronounced by competent authorities as being as good farming land as lies out of doors, nearly all of which he has accumulated through his own exertions. He also identified with various other interests and is rightfully accounted one of the substantial men of the county with whose interests he has been intimately connected for many years.

Mr. Scroggin comes of an old Kentucky family and was born on a farm near Mt. Pulaski, Logan county, this state, August 13, 1838, and may therefore be justly classed among the pioneers of Illinois. He is the son of Carter T. and Phoebe (Shelby) Scroggin. The father was born in Kentucky and was a son of Humphrey and Miss (Kirby) Scroggin and grew to manhood in Kentucky. As a young man he crossed the Ohio river into Gallatin county, Illinois, when Illinois was a territory, coming there with the lady to whom he was subsequently married and who became the mother of the subject of our review. She was a native of North Carolina and came to southern Illinois with her parents, continuing there for some years after her marriage, the family

T. J. SCROGGIN

moving to Logan county, this state, about 1825 or 1826—at least in some year previous to the "big snow" which is referred to by the early inhabitants as one of the remarkable occurrences in the pioneer history of Illinois. It is believed that the family first located on eighty acres of land. Here Mr. Scroggin continued until he was the owner of a farm of six hundred acres, all of which is still in possession of the family. He was a man of good business ability, possessing many of the interesting characteristics of the early southern gentlemen who founded homes in the wilderness north of the Ohio river. He was an uncompromising democrat but never an aspirant for public office, although he figured to a considerable extent in politics while assisting friends to secure coveted positions. He was an old school Baptist and his home was a popular stopping place for the old time ministers and also the center for many gatherings of the brethren. Mr. Scroggin departed this life at the age of sixty-five and his venerated wife at the age of seventy-six. Their remains lie side by side in the Steanbergen cemetery. Ten children came to bless the household of Mr. and Mrs. Scroggin: Leonard K., born in January, 1819, and a resident of Logan county; Margaret A., who married William Buckles and became the mother of five children, but is now deceased; Russell Shelby, now living at Mt. Pulaski, Logan county; Humphrey, who died at the age of thirty-five years; Jane, who married John Buckles and is now deceased, having left three children; Elizabeth, who married John H. Lucas and is now deceased; Pleasant Marion, who died at the age of sixty-five; Carter F., who is living at Cornland, Logan county; T. J., our subject; and Ellen C., the wife of C. K. Lucas and is now living at Mt. Pulaski.

The subject of our review was reared upon the farm and attended the neighboring school which was conducted for a short period each winter in a log schoolhouse supplied with puncheon seats and planks extending nearly around the room for use as a writing desk. The schoolmaster was usually a stern disciplinarian and hesitated not to make vigorous use of the rod. Under these circumstances some of the pupils made rapid progress. Our subject assisted his father upon the farm for some years after laying his school books aside, but he was ambitious to advance in life and at nineteen years of age he began to operate on his own account on a tract of seventy acres given him by his father, to which he added seventy acres by purchase and later acquired an additional forty acres, on all of which he conducted operations according to the approved methods of the times. In the spring of 1864 he moved to Harristown township, Macon county, where he had purchased one hundred and sixty acres of wild land at fifteen dollars an acre. Here he concentrated his energies and made many improvements, from time to time increasing the acreage until he acquired about thirteen hundred acres, some of which cost him as much as fifty dollars an acre, and the farm is now one of the most valuable properties in the township. This farm embraces about twenty acres which was the home of Thomas Lincoln, the father of Abraham Lincoln, and here the future president lived in his boyhood. The cabin that was occupied by the Lincoln family was moved from its original location before Mr. Scroggin bought the land and at present the spot is indicated by a memorial tablet. Before Mr. Scroggin purchased this land it belonged to Brennaman Brothers, who acquired it from

Richard Whitley, the original owner having been Shelton Whitley, who probably secured a title to the land from the government. Mr. Scroggin is also identified with various business interests and long since reached a point of financial independence and gained an enviable reputation as one of the leading business men of the farming community.

On January 1, 1858, Mr. Scroggin was united in marriage to Miss Rebecca Birks, of Logan county, who was a schoolmate of his and a native of the county. Five children were born of the union, the first two dying in infancy. The others are: James Russell, deceased at the age of twenty; Charles C., deceased at twenty-three years of age; and Carter R., a review of whom appears elsewhere in this work. The beloved wife and mother was called away November 11, 1898, and in 1900 Mr. Scroggin was married to Mrs. Hattie (Landis) Cass, a cousin of Judge Kenesaw Landis, of Chicago, and a lady of culture and refinement, who has proven to her husband a loving and sympathetic helpmate. Mr. Scroggin since arriving at manhood's estate has been a supporter of the principles of the democratic party, but has at no time sought official position, as his attention has been mainly directed to the management of his agriculture and stock-raising interests. He is a stanch believer in the Bible as the revealed word and holds membership in the Christian church, having served for some years as a deacon in that denomination. He has for many years been known as a liberal supporter of educational and religious enterprises and is recognized as one of the leading citizens of the county. The property which he amassed through many years of industry and good management is a justly earned reward of large effort, but it is not on account of his wealth that he is esteemed—rather is it on account of a recognized character for honesty and efficiency and a generous-hearted sympathy for his fellowmen, which have ever been distinguishing features of his character.

JUST S. FOMBELLE.

Whitmore township finds a worthy representative of its farming interests in Just S. Fombelle, living on section 18, where a farm of three hundred and twenty acres pays tribute to the care and labor which he bestows upon it. He is living a very busy, active and useful life and his labors are rewarded in large and abundant crops for which he finds a ready sale on the market. He has made his home in Macon county since 1886 but dates his residence in Illinois from 1864.

He was born in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, July 31, 1841, and spent his youthful days upon a farm there. His early education acquired in the common schools was supplemented by study in the Beaver Academy and for one term he engaged in teaching but the outbreak of the Civil war caused him to put aside personal interests and ambitions. He enlisted for active duty at the front in the fall of 1862 as an emergency recruit, joining the company at New Brighton, Pennsylvania. He was with that command for four months, during which time he participated in some skirmishes and in scouting. At the end of that

time he was honorably discharged and turned his attention to clerking, which he followed for three years in Pittsburg. He thus received a thorough business training and also pursued a course of study in the Iron City Commercial College. In 1864 he came west to Illinois, at length locating in this state after traveling about to a considerable extent through the west and south. He had spent a winter at New Orleans and from the Crescent city proceeded northward to Pulaski county, Illinois, establishing and conducting a general store at Villa Ridge, where he remained for four years. On the expiration of that period he sold out and removed to Randolph county, where he began dealing in grain and implements, conducting his business at Tilden, Illinois. He operated successfully there for a number of years and in 1886 came to Macon county. Here, turning his attention to farming, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land where he now resides. To his original holdings he has since added, by a purchase that has made him owner of another one hundred and seventy acre tract, so that he now has the south half of section 18, Whitmore township. He has also made substantial improvements upon his place, including the erection of a large and commodious residence together with two barns, corn cribs and other outbuildings that furnish ample shelter for grain and stock. He has likewise planted fruit and shade trees, has fenced and tiled his land and has now a splendidly developed home property. He has likewise made substantial improvements upon his other place and it is now occupied by a tenant. In connection with the cultivation of the fields he has raised and fed stock, fattening a large amount of stock each year for the market. His attention at the present time, however, is mostly given to the production of grain.

Mr. Fombelle was married in Pulaski county, Illinois, about 1867, to Miss Ella Russell, a native of Pennsylvania, who was reared in that state. She died in Randolph county, leaving two children: Ida, the wife of G. W. Pensinger, of Milmine, Illinois; and Ella, the wife of Clarence Turpin, a farmer of Whitmore township. In Randolph county, in 1882, Mr. Fombelle was again married, his second union being with Miss Mattie Alexander, who was born in that county. There are four children of this marriage: Mattie, the wife of George Austin, a farmer of Macon county; Just S., Jr., at home; Reid, also on the home farm; and Ruth C., who is in school.

Politically Mr. Fombelle has been a republican since casting his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1864. He believes firmly in the principles of the party and does not hesitate to support his honest convictions. He is greatly interested in the cause of education and has served as a member of the school board for a number of years. He also filled the office of school trustee in his township and for some years was a member of the board of highway commissioners. He was likewise connected with the Township Mutual Insurance Company, serving on its board of directors, and was its president for some time.

He joined the Masonic lodge in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and became a charter member of the lodge at Villa Ridge, serving there as secretary until his removal from the town. At the present writing he is not actively affiliated with any Masonic organizations. For twenty-four years he has lived in Macon

county and his record throughout the entire period is such as has commended him to the confidence and good will of all who know him. He has a wide acquaintance and was a personal friend of James Millikin during his lifetime. He is classed with the public-spirited and progressive citizens and moreover is a man of tried integrity and worth.

JOHN F. KEISTER.

John F. Keister, who since 1897 has lived in honorable retirement at his residence at No. 1651 North Main street in Decatur, was successfully identified with agricultural interests in Macon county throughout his active business career. His birth occurred in York county, Pennsylvania, on the 15th of May, 1843, his parents being Peter and Susan Keister, who were likewise natives of the Keystone state. They came to Macon county, Illinois, in 1850 and here spent the remainder of their lives, the father following farming as a means of livelihood. He was a republican in politics and became widely recognized as a substantial and representative citizen of the community. His demise occurred when he had attained the age of seventy-eight years, while his wife was eighty-three years old when called to her final rest. They had three children, as follows: a daughter who died in infancy; John F., of this review; and Julius, who married and reared a family and made his home in Chicago, where he passed away about 1898.

John F. Keister, who was but a little lad of six when he came to this state with his parents, attended the subscription and public schools in his youthful years but his educational advantages were quite limited. However, he has greatly augmented his knowledge by reading, experience and observation and is now a well informed man. After putting aside his text-books he remained on the home farm with his father until he was married at the age of twenty-three. Following that important event in his life he started out as an agriculturist on his own account and was successfully engaged in the work of the fields until the time of his retirement in 1897. For the past thirteen years he has made his home in Decatur, enjoying the fruits of his former toil in well earned ease. At the time of the Civil war he enlisted for service with the Union army in 1864, becoming a member of Company E, One Hundred and Forty-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. When hostilities had ceased he was mustered out at Springfield. His regiment never participated in a regular battle but had several encounters with the guerrillas.

In 1866 Mr. Keister was united in marriage to Miss Nancy Weaver, who was born in 1848, her parents being Samuel and Sarah (Saylor) Weaver, of Macon county. Mrs. Keister was the third in order of birth in a family of five children. By her marriage she became the mother of six children, the record of whom is as follows: Charles, who wedded a Miss Taggart, of Macon county, followed farming until he passed away at the comparatively early age of twenty-four years. Two sons, Clifford and Howard, still survive him. Mary, who gave her hand in marriage to Arthur Haines, of this county, be-

came the mother of two sons, Howard and Elwood, and is now deceased. Samuel died when but four years of age. Franklin passed away when twenty-one years old. Harriet, who wedded Fred Moore, of this county, died at the age of twenty-seven years, leaving one daughter, Lucille, who lives with our subject. Mabel, who makes her home in Decatur, is the wife of Charles Simms, a mechanic of that place.

In politics Mr. Keister has always been a republican, being a stanch supporter of the party which was the defense of the Union during the Civil war. He still maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades through his membership in the Grand Army post at Maroa and is likewise identified with the Masonic fraternity there. Both he and his wife are devoted and consistent members of the Christian church, exemplifying its teachings in their daily lives. Mr. Keister has resided in this county for six decades and is therefore largely familiar with its annals from pioneer times down to the present. His life has ever been upright and honorable, his actions manly and sincere, and as the years have gone by he has proven his right to be classed with the leading trustworthy and respected citizens of his community.

H. L. OLDHAM.

Public spirit, laudable ambition, ready ability and capacity for hard work and the power to see and grasp an opportunity are essential elements of success and in none of these requirements has H. L. Oldham ever been found lacking. It is not a matter of marvel therefore that he has established himself as one of the most progressive of Decatur's citizens, his efforts being of a character that has contributed largely to the welfare and upbuilding of the city as well as to his own success. He is now manager of the Orlando Powers block, was the organizer and promoter of the Oldham Insurance Agency and has instituted various other projects which are elements in the business life of Decatur. Of English nativity, H. L. Oldham was born on the Island of Jersey in 1870 and was educated in the Bedford grammar school and in Victoria College of his native land, completing the course in the latter institution by graduation. He had become a chartered accountant when he left England. He came to this country in 1890, unacquainted with social or business conditions in the new world. True he had a good education, was imbued with progressive ideas and had traveled to some extent through Europe, having met many noted personages of that country. His military experience in the English army and his love for outdoor sports gave him a splendid physical training which enabled him to enter athletic circles in America and win prominence therein.

Soon after arriving in the new world Mr. Oldham began auditing United States branches of English insurance companies and for two years gave his attention to that business. Since 1892 he has resided in Decatur, where he has won recognition as a leading business man. Here he established the H. L. Oldham Insurance Agency in 1893 and now represents fifteen of the most prominent and reliable old line companies, in which connection he has built up an ex-

tensive business, writing a large amount of insurance annually. He wrote the first liability policy and the first rent policy in the city of Decatur. He also negotiated the largest loan made in this city—a loan of one hundred thousand dollars, to Orlando Powers, at a very low rate of interest. This was made during the first free silver agitation when banks refused to make loans and if they did contracts bore the stipulation they should be paid in gold. His contract made with eastern capitalists, however, bore no such stipulation. Mr. Oldham likewise has to his credit one of the largest real-estate deals ever made in Decatur—a sale of the property on the corner of North Water and Prairie streets, involving seventy thousand dollars. He has also promoted three other deals above twenty-five thousand dollars each, beside others of almost equal importance. He is also president of the local board of fire underwriters of Decatur and has been manager of the Orlando Powers block since the erection of the new building fourteen years ago.

While conducting important private business interests Mr. Oldham has never been neglectful of his obligations to the city and in fact has put forth practical and far-reaching effort for the benefit of Decatur along various lines. It was he who originated the movement resulting in the ornamental boulevard lights by putting in such lights around the Powers block, while at the same time he influenced the Illinois Traction Company to install similar lights around the interurban station. This system has been followed by many other property owners in business streets, making Decatur one of the best lighted cities of the Mississippi valley, the tasteful arrangement and design of the lights constituting also a source of beauty as well as utility. He has many other propositions which he is pushing forward for the advancement of Decatur. Possibly no young business man has done more for the advancement of the city than he. Because of his advanced ideas he has in the past met much opposition and made some enemies but all hostility has been overcome, for his plans have proven practical and he is now backed by the best that this part of the state affords in brains and capital.

GEORGE W. LYONS.

George W. Lyons, a defender of the Union at the time of the Civil war, now living at No. 759 North College street, Decatur, was born March 22, 1845, in St. Joseph county, Michigan. He is a son of Charles E. and Wealthy A. (Ames) Lyons, the former of whom was born in Scotland and the latter in New York state. The father came to this country at seven years of age with three brothers. The ship in which he made the voyage was wrecked on the coast of Virginia, but they escaped with their lives and Charles E. Lyons was reared by Marshall Livermore, of Wheeling, Virginia, now West Virginia. He became a farmer and lived in Macon county, Illinois, from 1858 to 1875, owning land on what is now the site of Dreamland Park, Decatur. During the Civil war he served for three years in the Federal army and was wounded at Mobile, Alabama, but entirely recovered and is now living at Springdale, Arkansas, having arrived at

the advanced age of about ninety-four years. In 1882 the mother of our subject departed this life at the age of sixty-two years. Geoerge W. is the eldest of their children, the others being: Charles E., who died in Leesburg, Missouri, in 1910; Jane, a resident of that state; Hugh N., who also lives in Missouri; Gus, who died in this county in 1869; and one son who died in infancy in Cass county, Texas.

Educated in the common schools of Michigan, the subject of this review came with his parents to Decatur in 1859 and soon began to learn the blacksmith's trade. In 1862, at the age of seventeen, he enlisted in Company A, One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, serving with the highest credit to himself and the noble cause which he represented until he was mustered out at Washington in June, 1865. He participated with his regiment in many of the great engagements and campaigns of the war and was present at the battle of Arkansas Post and the siege of Vicksburg, the latter of which continued for forty-seven days. He assisted about three months on the Ben Butler canal that was cut across Young's Point on the Mississippi river in order that boats might pass up on the stream without coming in range of the rebel batteries at Vicksburg. Later he took part in the advance to Jackson and was in the battle of Missionary Ridge. He was one of the men who ran the blockade in pontoon boats across the Tennessee river and now has in his possession a flag that was carried on that memorable occasion. He has been custodian of this interesting relic for forty-four years and expects to hand it down as an heirloom to future generations of the family. He was present under Sherman on the march from Atlanta to the sea and took part in the battles of Raymond, Dalton, Snake Creek Gap and Buzzard's Roost. He was also present at Atlanta the day General McPherson was captured and fourteen cannon were taken from the Union forces by the Confederates. He stood in the presence of death a number of times, especially in the great charge when General Hood undertook to destroy Sherman's army at Atlanta, July 28, 1864, and in the charge at Jonesboro, Georgia. After the close of the war he returned to Decatur and resumed his work at the anvil until 1875, when he became connected with the Farris & Oaks Novelty Company. He continued with that firm for six years, acting as foreman during two years of that period. Since 1885 he has engaged successfully in the feed and grain business and has built up a fine patronage among the best class of customers in Decatur.

In 1867 Mr. Lyons was united in marriage to Miss Mary Jane Strailey, a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Strailey, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. She was the second in a family of three children and was born May 18, 1846. Three children have come to bless the union of Mr. and Mrs. Lyons, of whom Ulysses S., of Rockford, Illinois, is the eldest. He was married to Miss Annie Coble and has seven children and two grandchildren. Arthur S., the second child, was married to Ella Simpson, of Illinois. He is now living in Decatur and is the father of two children. Nora M., the third in order of birth, married Harold J. Palmer, of Chicago, and is the mother of one child.

Mr. Lyons is a stanch supporter of the republican party and he and his wife are members of the Church of God of Decatur. He also holds membership in Dunham Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and in the various duties of life

has attempted to perform his part faithfully. He was a valiant soldier in times of danger and in times of peace he has assisted to the extent of his ability in maintaining the Union for which he so freely offered his life. He is justly entitled to the highest respect of the generation now enjoying the blessings for which he so nobly fought.

MAXWELL W. SHULTZ.

Only noble traits of character leave their impress and cause the memory of man to be enshrined in the hearts of those who knew him. The splendid life of Maxwell W. Shultz, his many excellencies and his devotion to high ideals, make his record worthy of perpetuation on the pages of the history of the city which he called his home. He was born in Hagerstown, Maryland, May 4, 1849, a son of Chauncey F. and Hadassah Chambers (Brown) Shultz, the former a native of Somerset county, Pennsylvania, and the latter of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. The Chambers family were the founders of Chambersburg and were of English lineage, while the Shultz family comes of Swiss ancestry. The father acquired a liberal education in the public and high schools of the east and remained a resident of that part of the country until 1858, when he went down the Ohio and up the Mississippi river to St. Louis, establishing his home in that city. He was the first commissioner of Forest Park, one of the largest parks in the United States. He was also appointed subtreasurer by President Cleveland at St. Louis and likewise filled the office of county judge. His prominence in public affairs made him widely known and he left his impress for good upon the welfare, progress and development of the city. His was a long, useful and honorable life, which closed on the 23d of August, 1908, at the age of eighty-five years. He had long survived his wife, who passed away in 1887.

Maxwell W. Shultz was a little lad of nine years when his parents removed to St. Louis. He acquired his education in the public and high schools and also in a commercial college. He learned the drug business, being graduated from a school of pharmacy. Subsequently he established both a retail and wholesale drug store at Peoria, Illinois, and conducted it for five years, winning success because of hard work and close application but his health gave way and he sold out. He then sought an outdoor situation and became traveling salesman for Truax, Green & Company, a wholesale house of Chicago, with which he remained until his death, which occurred on the 21st of October, 1909. He was a very successful salesman, his territory covering central Illinois, where he built up for the house a large and profitable business. In 1887 he removed to Decatur, where he continued to make his home until called to his final rest, twenty-two years later. He was a man of high moral standing and his life was characterized by many good deeds and kindly, considerate acts. He was especially friendly and helpful toward young men, encouraging them to make life a success and giving them timely and friendly advice. During most of his residence in Decatur he resided at No. 351 West William street, and in addition to that property he owned considerable real estate in the city.

M. W. Stanley

Mrs Catherine E. Shultz

On the 29th of May, 1882, Mr. Shultz was married to Miss Catherine E. Taylor, of Richmond, Iowa, a daughter of Rinaldo C. and Martha Jane (Moore) Taylor. Her birthplace was Churchville, Virginia, and her natal day March 6, 1858. Her father was a native of Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, and her mother of Churchville, Virginia. The ancestry of the Moore family is traced back to the Mayflower and among the early ancestors of Mrs. Shultz were those who fought in the war for independence, entitling her to membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution. Joining that organization, she has served as secretary of the local chapter for four years and was regent for two years. Her parents made the overland trip to the middle west in 1859 and became pioneer residents of Iowa. They preempted large tracts of land from the government, becoming owners of thousands of acres there. Peter Moore, the great-grandfather of Mrs. Shultz in the maternal line, was a soldier of the Revolutionary war and also of the war of 1812. He lived for many years to enjoy the fruits of labor, passing away in 1820. He had reached a very venerable age and the family is noted for longevity, two aunts of Mrs. Shultz on the mother's side being now nearly ninety years of age and residents of Iowa. Another aunt living in Kentucky, is eighty-two years of age. One child was born unto Mr. and Mrs. Shultz but died in infancy.

Mr. Shultz was a prominent Mason of high degree and belonged to Medinah Temple of the Mystic Shrine in Chicago. He was a very charitable man, giving freely of his means for the benefit and aid of others and no good work done in the name of charity or religion sought his assistance in vain. His political allegiance was given to the democracy. He belonged to the Sons of the Revolution and was a devoted member of the Presbyterian church, in the work of which he took an active and helpful part. Mrs. Shultz is also a very prominent member of that church. For several years she served as president of the missionary and of the aid societies of the church and for twenty years was corresponding secretary of the Presbyterial society. For four years she acted as president of the Missionary Social Union and all branches of church work received her hearty cooperation and assistance. She also became president of the Municipal Art League, which she brought to the present high standard of organization. This is the only art league in Illinois outside of Chicago. She acted as chairman of the art and literature division for two years and for four years was chairman of the art committee of the Woman's Club. She is a lady of liberal culture and natural refinement and of broad education as well, for, having completed a high-school course, after the removal of the family to Iowa from her native town of Churchville, Virginia, she attended the Iowa State University at Iowa City. She has recently returned from a trip abroad, during which time as a delegate she attended the World's Missionary Conference held in Edinburgh, Scotland. She visited various points in Europe, Asia and Africa, going eight hundred and fifteen miles up the river Nile and she also witnessed the performance of the Passion Play at Oberammergau. Both Mr. and Mrs. Shultz were prominent in Decatur's leading social circles.

That Mr. Shultz was a most earnest Christian and a man of the highest principles and of sterling worth is indicated in the fact that at his death his widow received many letters of sympathy and condolence from all parts of

the United States. His death occurred after an illness of only ten days and was most deeply regretted by all who knew him but his memory will be enshrined in the hearts of his friends for years to come and will remain as a blessed benediction to those with whom he was brought in contact.

"Were a star quenched on high,
For ages would its light
Still traveling downward from the sky
Shine on our mortal sight.

So when a good man dies,
For years beyond our ken
The light he leaves behind him lies
Upon the paths of men."

DOCTOR TURPIN.

Doctor Turpin now residing in Oreana, was for many years one of the well known farmers of Whitmore township, where he owned and cultivated two hundred acres of good land that constituted a well improved and valuable farm. He dates his residence in Illinois from 1867, and Macon from 1870. His birth occurred in Hendricks county, Indiana, on the 16th of September, 1841. His father, Robison Turpin, was born in Kentucky and was a son of Jacob Turpin. The former spent his youth in his native state and was there married to Miss Rachel George Powell, a native of Kentucky. On their removal to Indiana they settled in Hendricks county where Robison Turpin developed a new farm, becoming the owner of a large tract of land which he brought under a high state of cultivation. He reared his family upon that place and there spent his last days, being numbered among the enterprising, progressive and highly respected agriculturists of that community. His family numbered six sons who reached mature years, and two daughters who grew to womanhood and married. Of these, three sons and one daughter are still living, namely: Harvey, a resident of Boone county, Indiana; Jacob Thomas, who owns and cultivates the old home farm in Hendricks county; Doctor Turpin, of this review; and Mrs. Martha Gorham, who is living in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The youthful days of Doctor Turpin were spent upon the home farm, and he had just attained his majority when in response to the country's call for troops, he enlisted at Indianapolis in 1862, and was a member of Company F, Fifth Indiana Cavalry. With that command he went to the south, the regiment joining the army of the Cumberland with which he participated in a number of lesser engagements and skirmishes in Tennessee and Georgia. Afterward he was with Sherman in the celebrated Atlanta campaign until taken prisoner, when he was sent to Andersonville and later transferred to Florence. The period of his incarceration covered seven months, at the end of which time he was paroled

and returned home. He was at the barracks at Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio, through the summer and later was honorably discharged. Following his return home Doctor Turpin engaged in farming and in 1867 removed westward to Illinois, settling first in Sangamon county, where he worked by the month for a year. He then rented land and engaged in farming on his own account in Sangamon county. It was also in that county that he wedded Miss Mary Elizabeth Ayers, who was born in Owen county, Kentucky, a daughter of Sanford B. Ayers, also a native of the Blue Grass state. He was married in Owen county to Miss Emeline Z. Beatty, a native of Kentucky, and in 1854 they removed to Illinois, establishing their home in Sangamon county.

Soon after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Turpin removed to Macon county and he purchased land in Whitmore township, becoming owner of a forty acre tract upon which was a little house. He carefully and systematically developed his fields, and as his labors brought to him good return he added to the property from time to time until he became the owner of two hundred acres. Upon the place he erected a good residence; likewise two barns, cribs and outbuildings. He also planted some fruit trees, fenced and tiled the fields and continued farming there with excellent success until 1904, when he removed to Oreana where he erected a good residence which he now owns and occupies.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Turpin have been born four children: Ida May, at home; Clara, the wife of Oliver Gould of Decatur; William Clarence, who carries on the home farm and is married and has one child Elizabeth; and Alice, the wife of Oscar D. Philips of Oreana, by whom she has two daughters, Grace Imogene and Dorothy Marie. Mr. and Mrs. Turpin are members of the Christian church in which he is serving as a trustee. He votes a democratic ticket where national issues are involved, but casts an independent local ballot in support of the candidates whom he thinks best qualified for office.

His life has been well spent, and for over forty years he has lived in Macon county enjoying and meriting to the fullest extent the confidence, good will and honor of his fellowmen. He has never sought to figure prominently in public affairs, but has always been loyal to the best interests of the community and to the standards of high and honorable manhood. Such a person has distinct value as a factor in the citizenship of the community in which he resides.

B. HILTON CASSELL.

Among the men prominently operating in real-estate circles is B. Hilton Cassell, and his efforts are an element in the substantial growth and development in the city. When Decatur contained only a few hundred inhabitants he started upon life's journey here, the date of his birth being March 20, 1846. His parents were Berry H. and Louise M. (Shultz) Cassell, natives of East Hanover, Pennsylvania and Maryland, respectively. They were pioneer people of Macon county, arriving when Decatur had not yet emerged from villagehood and gave but little evidence of future growth and development. The father was a tinner

by trade and carried on that business for several years, after which he turned his attention to the hardware business, becoming the junior partner in the firm of Prather & Cassell, their store being upon the present site of the Morehouse & Wells building which is now being erected. From time to time he extended the scope of his activities and became a prominent factor in the substantial growth of the city. In 1856 he was in the hotel business as a member of the firm of Cassell, Stroh & Henderson, the hostelry being known as the Cassell House, which stood on the present site of the St. Nicholas. His varied business activities and his prominence in other directions made him well known throughout this section of the state. A tract of land which he purchased at the east end of the city at an early day is now built up almost solidly with residences. He also purchased eight acres of land known as Cassell Hill, a tract almost circular in form, and on this he erected a beautiful residence now owned and occupied by B. Hilton Cassell and designated throughout the city as Cassell's Castle. The death of Mr. Cassell occurred October 12, 1904. His wife had passed away October 21, 1903.

Mr. Cassell was reared in Decatur, attended the public schools and after his marriage removed to a farm in Decatur township, which remained his place of abode until 1901. He is still the owner of two hundred acres of valuable land, to the cultivation and development of which he devoted a number of years, transforming it into one of the valuable and highly productive properties of this region. In 1901 he removed into his father's old home which is now his residence. He also owns about twenty houses in Decatur which he leases, and as a speculative builder he has become well know, erecting various dwellings for the purpose of sale. His intention is to divide the old homestead, consisting of eight acres, into building lots and make it one of the ideal residence districts of the city.

In 1872 Mr. Cassell was married to Miss Fannie W. Harrison, of Ohio, and unto them have been born three sons: Louis B., now engaged in the practice of law; Fred R., who follows farming; and Otto D., who is engaged in the real-estate business. Mrs. Cassell is a daughter of Matthew and Lydia (Plummer) Harrison, both natives of Ohio, where the father died. He was a farmer by occupation. After his death Mrs. Harrison came to Macon county, Illinois, and here she passed away in October, 1898. In their family were fourteen children, seven of whom are living at the present time. Two sons died in Andersonville prison during the Civil war.

Mr. Cassell is a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of Macon Lodge, No. 8, A. F. & A. M., Macon Chapter, No. 21, R. A. M.; Decatur Council, No. 12, R. & S. M.; Beaumonoir Commandery, No. 9, K. T.; Peoria Consistory, S. P. R. S.; Decatur Chapter, No. 111, O. E. S.; Mecca Shrine, No. 15; and the White Shrine of Jerusalem, and his wife is also a member of the Eastern Star and the White Shrine.

Mr. Cassell was born in the house which stood on the site of the Linn & Scruggs dry goods store, in a long building which had been used for a wagon and paint shop. His father had a little tin shop in the east end of the building, the family occupying the west end. Decatur at that time had less then a thousand

population. He has, therefore, witnessed its growth to a city of thirty-five thousand—one of the most progressive and enterprising in Illinois. He has not only maintained a deep interest in what has been accomplished but has also borne his share in the work of development, his cooperation being a tangible factor in various movements for the general good. He is today one of Decatur's most popular and prominent residents and a well spent life is indicated in the fact that many of his stanchest friends are those who have known him from his boyhood to the present time.

JACOB M. LEHMAN.

Jacob M. Lehman, now deceased, who was a highly respected member of the farming community of Hickory Point township, Macon county, was born in Ohio, in September, 1838. He was a son of Henry Lehman, a native of Pennsylvania, who moved to Ohio, where he was married, and came to Illinois in 1843, first settling in Decatur. He became the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land in the county and moved to the farm about 1858, and there he died twenty years later, in 1878. The mother of our subject was before her marriage Mary Cushner. She was a native of Maryland and was born in 1818 and died in this county two years before her husband was called away. There were ten children in their family, two of whom are now living: Mrs. Bixler, of Decatur; and Mary.

The subject of our review came to Illinois with his parents and was educated in the public schools, working upon the farm as he grew up and becoming thoroughly familiar with its operations. He was still at home at the time of the Civil war and was one of the valiant young men who went forth under the stars and stripes to defend the Union. He enlisted in the Eighth Illinois Volunteers and served with the highest credit to himself and his regiment for three years. At the close of his period of service he was honorably discharged and returned to the home farm, continuing there until 1873, when he began farming upon his own account. In 1874 he bought the present homestead of the family, which is located in Hickory Point township and consists of one hundred and ten acres, with a handsome residence and all the improvements of a modern farm. He also acquired eighty acres of land in the northern part of the county and became recognized as one of the enterprising and successful farmers of his region.

Politically Mr. Lehman supported the principles of the republican party for a number of years but later changed his allegiance to the democratic party as best representing the ideals of a free people. He was a man of good discernment, a wise manager and one who was devotedly attached to his wife and children. His death, July 21, 1902, caused general regret throughout the region where he was well known and much esteemed for his noble qualities.

In 1873 occurred the marriage of Jacob M. Lehman and Miss Catherine Weaver, a daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Seiler) Weaver, who were natives of Pennsylvania and came to Illinois in 1850 and settled in Macon county. Here the head of the family bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, upon which

he began operations and evinced such an ability as an agriculturist and stock-raiser that at the time of his death, in 1905, at the age of eighty-two years, he was the owner of about twenty-five hundred acres of land in Macon, Shelby and Piatt counties. Mrs. Weaver was born in 1825 and departed this life in the same year as her beloved husband. They were the parents of five children: Alfred and Charles, both of Decatur; Nancy, now Mrs. Keister, of Decatur; Catherine, herein mentioned; and Mrs. Susan Crossman, of Harristown, this county. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Lehman was blessed by the arrival of seven children, all of whom are now living: Ruth, the wife of Dr. Albert Mowry, of Chicago, and the mother of one child, Marian; Alfred, who married Irene Stone, of Macon county, and is the father of two children, Ralph and Ruth; Charles, who married Maude Cox, of Piatt county, this state, and has three children, Owen, Gladys and Lola; Jacob, who married Nellie Cress, now deceased, who was the mother of one child, Merle, also deceased; Bertram, who is living with his brother in Piatt county; Ivah, who married Charles Lyman and is the mother of two children, Maxine and Rhonette; and John, who is living at home. Mrs. Lehman is now living on the family homestead and is accorded the respect of friends and acquaintance and the love of her children, to whom she has been, indeed, a true and self-sacrificing mother.

DAVID STEWART.

A successful farmer of Macon county is David Stewart who all his life has been identified with this immediate vicinity. He represents a well known pioneer family which settled in this region at an early day and assisted in the great work of breaking the soil for the peaceful communities that are to be seen on every hand. Mr. Stewart was born December 6, 1859, and is a son of Angus L. and Mary (Krone) Stewart, the former of whom was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, in 1820, and died in this county February 11, 1904. There were only a few houses in Decatur when the father arrived in Macon county and during his life he was a witness of the great change by means of which the wilderness was transformed into beautiful farms. He was a carpenter and after working for a time at his trade in Decatur he acquired a claim for a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of land, later receiving a deed for the same from the government. After taking up his residence upon the farm he increased its area by the addition of twenty-two acres and at the time of his death was the owner of a well improved farm of one hundred and eighty-two acres. The last seven years of his life were passed at Oreana, Illinois, where he lived retired. The mother was a native of Pennsylvania and was born in 1832, departing this life after many years of usefulness in January, 1905. A review of the Krone family appears in another part of this work. Thirteen children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Stewart, six of whom are now living: David, our subject; Robert and Samuel, of Macon county; Frank, of Kansas; Nettie, now Mrs. V. W. Benton, of Macon county; and Mary, also of Macon county.

The subject of this review grew up as a farm boy and received his education in the district school. After laying aside his books he assisted his father in conducting the farm for several years and at twenty-one years of age he rented land in the neighborhood, upon which he lived for eleven years. At the end of this time he removed to the northwestern part of the county where he farmed for two years, then returned to this region and in 1897 took up his residence on the old homestead which is owned by heirs of the family, our subject having acquired the share of one of his brothers. Here he conducts general farming and has attained a goodly measure of success.

On February 23, 1882, Mr. Stewart was united in marriage to Miss Emma Lowery, a daughter of John D. and Frances (Harris) Lowery, natives of New York city, who came to Illinois at an early day and settled in Fayette county. There were five children in the family, three of whom are living: Emma, herein mentioned; Stella, and Dora. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Stewart was brightened by the arrival of one child, Alta, who was married to Forest Pope. They now live on the home farm and have been the parents of four children, three of whom are living: David, Goldie and Bonnie.

Mr. Stewart has been a lifelong adherent of the democratic party and although he has never been an office seeker, he has served with general acceptance as commissioner of highways. Fraternally he holds membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, and the Modern Woodmen of America, all of Forsyth, Illinois. In his various responsibilities and duties, whether public or private, Mr. Stewart has at all times been actuated by a consistent desire to advance the general interest. In his work he has been ably assisted by his estimable wife who is in all respects a worthy helpmate to her life companion.

LAFAYETTE GULICK.

Lafayette Gulick, a well known farmer of Macon county now living retired after many years of successful operations in agriculture and stock-raising, was born in this county, August 2, 1849. He is the son of Levi and Harriet (Miler) Gulick, the former a native of Loudoun county, Virginia, and the latter of Ohio. The father came to Illinois in the early days and entered nearly seven hundred acres of government land in Hickory Point and Decatur townships and became one of the substantial farmers of the county. In 1853 he made a visit to his old home in Virginia on horseback and on his return was taken sick with cholera and died at Logansport, Indiana. In this county he was well known as a general farmer and stock-raiser and also as a buyer of hogs, having engaged very largely in that business at the time when it was customary to drive hogs to the St. Louis market. He was also a large feeder of live-stock. The mother was again married after the death of the father and became the wife of John Sawyer. She died in this county in 1892. By her first husband she had four children: Julia, had three children: Anna, now Mrs. Hornsbarger; Alice, who died in 1880; and Frank and Mary E., all deceased; and Lafayette. By her second husband she Edwin.

Lafayette Gulick was reared upon the home farm and educated in the public schools. After becoming thoroughly acquainted with farming in its various phases, he commenced cultivating a tract of eighty acres which his father gave him. Later he purchased one hundred and sixty acres adjoining, so he had a farm of two hundred and forty acres, and this property he brought to a high state of cultivation, making it one of the most productive farms in the locality. After conducting the farm for twenty years Mr. Gulick erected a handsome residence on the old Barber place, on the Bloomington pike, southeast of the old home and there he has lived retired since 1905, being now the fortunate owner of six hundred and forty acres of land, comprising several farms in Hickory Point township, and one of its most responsible citizens.

On September 22, 1870, Mr. Gulick was united in marriage to Miss Martha A. Montgomery, a daughter of William F. and Amelia (Suver) Montgomery, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Ohio. The parents came to Illinois previous to the Civil war and were identified with farming interests. There were seven children in their family: Rachel, who became Mrs. Hays but is now deceased; Samuel, a resident of Decatur; Mary, who became Mrs. Hanks, of Hickory township; Amelia, now living with Mrs. Hanks; Frank and Patrick H., of Decatur; and Martha A., wife of our subject. To Mr. and Mrs. Gulick four children have been born: Nellie, who was born in 1872 and died in 1892; Frank, who married a Miss McMahan, whose parents were living on one of his father's farm, and has two children, Bernice and Frank; Bernard M., who married Miss Louisa Love, the daughter of a farmer in the same neighborhood; Fred L., who married a Miss Grace Pope, whose parents were living on one of his father's farms, and has one child, Evelyn.

Mr. Gulick ever since arriving at man's estate has been a supporter of the democratic party but he has never sought official honors, as his principal interest has been centered in his family and his farms. The success that has attended his life work has been due to industry and sound judgment, the latter element being the leading feature of his character. He and his estimable wife now enjoy in peace and prosperity the results of their well directed labors, and it is scarcely necessary to add that they are greatly esteemed by their neighbors and by the many friends they have made in this part of the county.

LEWIS HARDY CLARK, M. D.

Sixth in direct descent from noted colonial ancestry, with a long line of prominent American progenitors on both sides of the house, Dr. Lewis H. Clark, of Decatur, occupies a unique place in the genealogical records of citizens now living in Illinois. The Revolutionary patriot, Nathaniel Clark, was a member of this family and the name Clark in many states of the Union attests the virility of the early stock, which has been transmitted from generation to generation, almost unimpaired, from worthy forebears.

The subject of this review is a native of Christian county, Illinois, and is a son of Dr. Joseph H. and Lydia D. (Hardy) Clark. The father was born

DR. LEWIS H. CLARK

in Christian county, Kentucky, April 6, 1819, and was a practicing physician from 1855 to the time of his decease in 1880. He was married to Lydia D. Hardy, also of Christian county, Kentucky, in 1840, and the couple removed to Christian county, Illinois, in 1844. He was one of the pioneer settlers of Taylorville, where he built up a practice which extended over a wide range of country. He served as captain in the Fifth Missouri Battalion for six months during the summer of 1862, the battalion later being merged into Company B of the Sixth Missouri Cavalry. The Doctor was an old line democrat and in religious views a Universalist. He was a self-made man of striking personality and in the earlier years of his active life was a school teacher, meanwhile studying medicine and becoming a practitioner of the eclectic school. His body reposes in an old cemetery in Christian county, Illinois. His wife died in Butler, Bates county, Missouri, at the age of seventy-eight years, in 1902, and was there buried. In the family were eleven children, five sons and six daughters, and six of the number grew to maturity and reared families.

Tracing the ancestry in regular ascent we have James C., father of Joseph H. Clark and grandfather of Lewis Hardy Clark. He was born in Barren county, Kentucky, on June 13, 1791, but lived for a number of years in Christian county, Kentucky, where he was well known as a farmer and an old time esquire. He served in the war of 1812 and was at one time a member of the Kentucky legislature. He was married in his native state to Miss Hannah Henderson. They reared a family of eleven children and removed to Christian county, Illinois, where the head of the family departed this life in 1874, his remains being buried on the land which he had located upon when it was a wilderness. In the same graveyard lies his wife, the partner of his joys and sorrows and one of the representative pioneer women who risked their lives in accompanying their husbands to new homes amidst the uncertainties of the frontier. Grandfather Clark may truly be regarded as one of the makers of history in Illinois. His cabin door opened freely to every hungry traveler and the stranger was made to feel at home under the shelter of that humble roof. Wild animals abounded along the great streams and on the great prairies, and meat was plentiful during the greater part of the year. The first preaching services of the neighborhood were held at the home of this patriarch. He lived to see the country transformed into growing fields of grain and many hamlets develop into prosperous towns and cities. The great-grandfather of Lewis Hardy Clark, was Bolin Clark, who served in the Revolution under General Nathaniel Greene, and later took up his home in Kentucky, then the principal region of attraction for many settlers who felt crowded in the more thickly populated states east of the Alleghanies. The descendants of many of these old eastern families afterward caught the same feeling of restlessness and were among the founders of Illinois, Missouri, Iowa and other great states. On the maternal side the subject of this review may point with pride to his grandfather Hardy, who was a famous Indian fighter and served as captain of a brave company of rangers who assisted in freeing the border of its greatest peril. Nathaniel Henderson, of the paternal branch, was an early settler of Tennessee and was the prime mover in having the state set off from North Carolina, of which it was originally a part.

Dr. Lewis Hardy Clark, our immediate subject, was the third child in the family of Dr. Joseph H. Clark. He first saw the light of day in Christian county, Illinois, June 29, 1844. Reared on the farm, he shared the simple pleasures and also the hardships of the homes established under primitive surroundings and lacking most of the conveniences now regarded as indispensable in every household. He attended the district schools and in his nineteenth year was granted a teacher's certificate and began teaching school in his native county, continuing as a teacher for several years. Previous to this time, at the age of seventeen, he enlisted in the Missouri State Militia and served from September, 1861, to February 28, 1862. The experience he gained in the war, although he was then just merging into manhood and too young to serve in the regular forces, made a lasting impression and has been a great benefit in shaping his after life.

Dr. Clark began the study of medicine under his father in 1866, later attending the Eclectic Medical College at Cincinnati and graduating from that institution in 1868. His studies have been conducted on broad principles, as he early recognized that all schools of medicine have at least some principles of truth, and he also applies allopathic remedies in cases to which they seem best adapted. The tendency toward unification in medical practice as in many other lines is becoming generally acknowledged and in many communities practitioners of all reputable schools meet in harmony. Dr. Clark practiced at Taylorville from 1868 until 1881, when he removed to Decatur, where he has since resided. At Taylorville he served as councilman for a number of years, but the duties of his chosen profession have mainly occupied his attention and he has never aspired to political honors. As a practitioner he has proven eminently successful and during an active experience of more than forty years in one of the most arduous of professions has accomplished a great deal of good throughout a wide region in alleviating the ills of his fellowmen. He is a member of the Macon County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Society and the Eclectic Medical Association. He also holds membership in the Knights of Pythias, Court of Honor, Modern Woodmen of America and Loyal Americans. For twenty years past he has filled the office of deacon of the First Baptist church and in all the relations of life he is known as one whose constant aim is to perform his duty.

On the 29th of October, 1868, by Rev. G. J. Barrett, Dr. Clark was united in marriage to Miss Elnora Maxwell, of Christian county. One daughter has blessed this union: Juanita E., who is a graduate of the Decatur high school and who is the happy possessor of musical ability in an unusual degree. Her talent became manifest during her school days and after completing the high-school course she received musical instruction under some of the best masters in the Chicago conservatories. As organist of the First Baptist church, which possesses one of the best pipe organs in central Illinois, she has assisted materially in adding to the interest of the services. She is also teacher of a large class of pupils in various stages of advancement.

It has been said that every hour employed usefully is so much capital that ultimately draws prodigious interest. Certainly does the truth of this thought appear as a result of the long and honorable career of the gentleman whose

name appears at the head of this review. Imbued with right principles in youth, he has adhered to the best traditions of a family which has produced many names worthy of any honor that may accrue to them and of the highest confidence of their associates and friends.

JOSEPH F. TRIMMER.

The Civil war attracted many of the promising young men of our country, who offered their lives to support the stars and stripes and were received into the army often before they arrived at years of maturity. These young men were made of good fighting material and on many a closely contested battlefield they demonstrated their worthiness. Among the number was Joseph F. Trimmer who is now engaged in the peaceful occupation of farming and is the fortunate owner of one hundred and twenty acres of land in Hickory Point township this county.

He first saw the light of day in Perry county, Pennsylvania, in 1845. His father, Joseph F. Trimmer, Sr., was also born in Pennsylvania in 1818 and came to Illinois in 1853, settling upon a farm in Macon county. The grandparents of our subject belonged to old Pennsylvania families whose ancestors came from Germany many years ago. The father was a landowner in the Keystone state, but on settling in Illinois he rented land and continued as a renter for eleven years, at the end of which time he bought the Mound farm which he had previously been renting and which constituted one hundred and sixty acres. Later he purchased a farm one mile east, which also included one hundred and sixty acres, and at the time of his death, in 1886, he was the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land. He was a republican in politics and was greatly respected by friends and neighbors in the community. The mother of our subject before her marriage was Catherine Fetrow, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1820 and lived to the advanced age of eighty-seven years, departing this life in 1907. There were nine children in the family: Andrew; William, who died in 1864; Abraham, of Ohio; Joseph, our subject; Mary, who married Isaiah Henry, and is now a widow; Daniel, of Indiana; Henry, deceased; John, of Decatur; and George, deceased.

Joseph F. Trimmer came to Illinois with his parents as a boy in 1853 and one of his early recollections is the long trip in a wagon drawn by three horses, the journey requiring several weeks. He received his education in the public schools and on leaving school devoted his attention to the work upon the farm in which he assisted his father most assiduously. When he was seventeen years of age the great Civil war was in full progress and threatened to engulf the republic, and like thousands of valiant young men, he offered his services in behalf of the flag and was accepted as a member of the One Hundred and Fifty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry, serving for one year from February, 1864. Upon being honorably discharged in September, 1865, he returned home, remaining on the farm for one year, at the end of which time he began renting land for himself. In this capacity he continued for six or seven years, acquiring a

small capital with which he purchased eighty acres of land in Madison county, Iowa, and here he lived for seventeen years. In 1888 he returned to Macon county and purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres where he has since resided and engaged in agriculture and stock-raising with a fine degree of success.

In 1868 Mr. Trimmer was united in marriage to Miss Dianatha T. Henry, a daughter of Samuel and Catherine (Walters) Henry, natives of Pennsylvania, who emigrated to Iowa and were there identified with farming interests. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Henry: Lucinda, who became Mrs. H. Davis, of Iowa, and is now deceased; Emanuel H., deceased; Mary J., who became the wife of G. Wheeler and is now deceased; Isaiah H., deceased; Wesley H., of Iowa; Cyrus, also of Iowa; Diantha T., herein mentioned; Jacob, deceased. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Trimmer seven children have been born: Minnie, now Mrs. Peter Keister, of Macon county, who has two children, Mabel and Florence; Francis, deceased; Roe, of Macon county; Clara, now Mrs. Drake, of Iowa; who has two children, Helen and Clyde; and Ora, Florence and Pearl, all living at home.

Mr. Trimmer is socially identified with Decatur Post, No. 141, Grand Army of the Republic, at whose meetings the veterans of the Civil war renew the friendships of more than forty years standing and once more participate, in imaginations, in the trials and triumphs that resulted finally in the permanent establishment of this great republic. Mr. Trimmer is a stanch republican in his political views, but in local affairs often votes for the man rather than the party. He has not sought public office but he has acceptably served as a member of the school board and in discharging his various duties he applies the lessons which he learned in the school of experience, beginning in the dark days of the Rebellion and continuing through brighter days to the present time. He is a wide-awake, enterprising and energetic citizen and is greatly esteemed by the many who know of his good qualities. He was fortunate in the selection of a helpmate and in his wife he has found an unfailing source of comfort and support, their home being the abode of happiness and the center of kindly greetings for friends and acquaintances of this region.

ROY O. WEAVER.

Roy O. Weaver, well known as a farmer of Macon county and living at the old homestead in Hickory Point township, was born August 23, 1882. Mr. Weaver represents the third generation of the family in this county, the older members having arrived in Illinois at an early day, when there were few settlers and when the country was largely open to preemption. Land which then was held by the government at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre has advanced until it commands one hundred and twenty-five to two hundred and fifty dollars per acre, and the entire appearance of the country has been transformed. This great change has been wrought by the active hand of man and, judging by the past, the march of improvement will continue indefinitely.

The father of our subject, Charles Weaver, was a native of Pennsylvania and came to Illinois with his parents, Samuel and Sarah Weaver, when he was four years of age. The family settled in Macon county and Charles Weaver worked upon the farm and after the death of his father inherited the homestead, the other children of the family being: Catherine, now the widow of Jacob Lehman and living at Forsyth, this state; Nancy, now Mrs. Keister, of Decatur; Susan, now Mrs. Crossman, of Harristown, Illinois; and Alfred, of Decatur. The mother of our subject was before her marriage Sarah Shively, a native of Pennsylvania, and three children were born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Weaver; Arthur, who married Minnie Spera, now living in Kansas; Roy O., and Pearl, now Mrs. Hockaday.

Roy O. Weaver was born on the farm where he now lives and educated in the district schools. Upon laying aside his books, having determined to devote his life to farming pursuits, he worked on the farm with his father, continuing under the latter until the parents retired to Decatur in 1906, since which time the subject of this review has had entire charge of the farm, which consists of two hundred acres and is one of the highly productive and well managed farms of this region.

On September 15, 1903, Mr. Weaver was happily united in marriage to Miss Grace Hockaday, a daughter of James and Martha (Walker) Hockaday, natives of Ross county, Ohio. The parents came to Illinois in 1856 and settled in Decatur, where they are still living. There were nine children in their family, seven of whom are now living: Frank, Mrs. Ida Huddleston, Mrs. Anna Wicoff, James L., Mrs. Letitia Littleton, Guy, and Grace, herein mentioned. To Mr. and Mrs. Weaver five children have been born: Danville Eldon, born April 20, 1904; Dorothy Evelyn, born September 26, 1905; Ina Marie, born February 19, 1907; Martha Virginia, born June 21, 1908; and Alma, born September 9, 1909.

Mr. Weaver takes the interest of a patriotic citizen in local, state and national affairs and usually casts his ballot with the democratic party. He was fortunate in the selection of a wife and by her womanly qualities she has made his home a pleasing abode, the center not only of a happy family circle but a gathering place for friends and acquaintances of the family, where they may always be assured of an earnest and sincere greeting. In his business as a farmer Mr. Weaver has attained the success which is ever the reward of honest and well directed effort.

ALONZO DISBROW.

Among the soldiers who associated nobly in putting down the rebellion and then resumed the occupations of the farm, in which they have attained deserved success, may be named Alonzo Disbrow, of Hickory Point township, Macon county. He was born in the state of New York, January 7, 1843, and is a son of Orin D. and Abigail (Smith) Disbrow, both of whom were natives of New York. The father was a mason by trade and desiring to improve his condition came to Illinois in 1853, settling in McHenry county, where he remained

for a few years, when he removed to Moberly, Missouri, where in 1858 he died suddenly while at work. The mother of our subject was called from earthly scenes in 1885. There were seven children in the family: Lewis, deceased; Charles, a resident of St. Joseph, Missouri; Robert E., deceased; Thomas J., of Independence, Iowa; Alonzo, our subject; James E., deceased; and Delia, who died at twelve years of age.

Alonzo Disbrow passed the first ten years of his life in the state of his birth and then came with his parents to Illinois, receiving his education in the public schools of New York and Illinois. When the shadows of the Civil war gathered over the land he was eighteen years of age and in the fall of 1861, feeling that it was his duty to assist in the preservation of the Union, he enlisted in the Eighth Illinois Cavalry for a period of three years. The regiment was sent to the Army of the East and participated in some of the memorable campaigns of the war. Private Disbrow did valiant service in a number of the leading battles. He was present during the great Peninsular campaign and on the firing line at Antietam. At the time of Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania he was on detail duty at the city of Washington and his regiment was among the first to arrive on the memorable battlefield at Gettysburg. His experience in the war was a thrilling introduction to the great battle of life in which he has since been engaged and in which he has borne a valiant part. Nor was he the only member of his father's family who assisted in upbuilding the stars and stripes. It is a remarkable fact that six sons of this family wore the uniform of the blue and one, Lewis, gave up his life for his country.

After receiving an honorable discharge from military service our subject in September, 1864, returned to Macon county and took up his home on the land where his mother and oldest brother had settled in 1861. He assumed charge of the farm, which he paid for at fifteen dollars an acre, the land being purchased from the Illinois Central Railroad Company. Later he bought ninety-five acres adjoining and is now the owner of a fine farm, which is provided with a goodly number of improvements and embraces one hundred and thirty-five acres. He also owns a farm of four hundred and eighty acres in the province of Manitoba, Canada, and a tract of eighty acres of farming land in Nebraska, and in his agricultural operations has shown good judgment which reflects high credit upon his early education.

In 1875 Mr. Disbrow was united in marriage to Miss Ellen Wentworth, a daughter of Benning and Catherine Wentworth, natives of Ross county, Ohio, who emigrated to this state and settled in Macon county. They were the parents of six children, all daughters: Mary, who has been three times married and is now a widow; Esther; Ellen; Laura, who became Mrs. Bear and is now deceased; Jane, now Mrs. Z. Baughn; and Bartlett, now Mrs. L. Bean, of Kansas. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Disbrow three children have been born: Lewis, at home; Catherine, now Mrs. S. A. Clatterbock, of Sioux City, Iowa, and Benning, at home.

Mr. Disbrow is a firm believer in holy writ and has for a number of years held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. Politically he is identified with the republican party and is an earnest advocate of its principles. As a soldier he belongs to the Grand Army Post No. 41, of Decatur. Here he learned

the great lesson of self-independence and in war he gained experience by contact with men which is often of much more value than great book learning. He is a man of good address, well informed and tried courage, and has arrived at an age where he can at ease enjoy the results of many years of labor. It is scarcely necessary to add that the subject of this review stands high in the opinion of his fellowmen.

CHARLES HAYS.

Charles Hays, a popular farmer of Hickory Point township and a worthy descendant of a well known family of Macon county, was born September 27, 1859. His father, John R. Hays, was born in Indiana, in 1830, and came with his parents to Illinois when he was four years of age, the family locating near Monticello and later removing to this county. He was a son of John and Rebecca (Hadley) Hays, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of New York state. In this county the father of our subject grew up and was educated in the district schools, after leaving which he devoted his attention to farming. He received some land from his father and became quite a successful farmer. At the time of his death, in 1900, he was the owner of about six hundred acres of land. He was an industrious and intelligent man, who performed his part in advancing the welfare of this region and making it a desirable location for the best class of people. He had the confidence of his neighbors and served for one term as supervisor of his township. He married Rachel Montgomery, a native of Clark county, Ohio, who was born April 9, 1837, and was a daughter of William and Amelia (Suver) Montgomery. She came to Illinois with her parents and was here married. She survived her husband for ten years and was called away January 3, 1910, in the seventy-third year of her age. Mrs. Hays was a woman of fine character and one who contributed in an important degree toward the prosperity and happiness of her family. She was the mother of five children: Charles, our subject; William J. and Frank, both residents of Decatur; Cynthia, who died at nine years of age; and one child who died in infancy.

Charles Hays was educated in the public schools of this county and grew up as a farmer boy, becoming well acquainted with the various duties of the farm and under his father evincing an interest and proficiency in his work which was a prophecy of a successful career as an agriculturist and stock raiser. About the time of the death of his father he assumed charge of his present farm, which was part of the old home place. Here he has since lived and is now the owner of three hundred and sixty acres of well improved land in this county, being one of its substantial and prosperous farmers.

In 1889 Mr. Hays was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Landis, a daughter of Henry and Amanda (Reeser) Landis, both natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Illinois about 1866. Here Mr. Landis carried on farming, becoming independent financially, and he and his wife are now living retired in Decatur. They have four children: Elizabeth, now Mrs. Hays; James, of Decatur; William, of San Diego, California; and Etta L., now Mrs. Cooper, living near Harristown, Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. Hays four children have been born:

Edwin, born in 1891, at home; Robert, born in 1893; and Ora and Oma, twins, born in 1895.

Mr. Hays affiliates with the democratic party and, although he has not been an office seeker, preferring rather to devote his principal interest to his own private affairs, he has served with commendation as assessor of his township. He has always taken a lively interest in the development of Macon county, as here he was born and all his life has been identified with its growth. He is widely acquainted with the people of this region and it is greatly to his credit that his best friends are found among those who have known him from his boyhood. No one begrudges him and his wife the comforts with which they are supplied, as these comforts are the result of well spent time and labor.

MATTHEW M. HARRISON.

Matthew M. Harrison is one of the prosperous farmers of Macon county, who takes great pride in his farm and, therefore, has attained deserved success. He was born in Ross county, Ohio, November 17, 1856, and is a son of Matthew Harrison, who was also a native of the Buckeye state, born in 1815. He followed farming all his life and died in 1859, when our subject was three years of age. The mother before her marriage was Lydia A. Plummer, a native of Ohio, who was born in 1818 and after the death of her first husband married Mitchell Liedam, the family coming to Illinois in 1868 and settling in Macon county. The mother was a woman of many noble qualities. She departed this life in 1898. By her first marriage she became the mother of fourteen children, six of whom are now living: Mrs. Fanny Cassel, a resident of Macon county; Mrs. Sarah Wilt, also of this county; Mrs. Mary Lintner, of Joplin, Missouri; Joseph, of Indian Territory; Matthew M.; and Eliza, now Mrs. Mount, of Decatur.

The subject of this review was educated in the public schools of his native state and grew up upon the farm, coming to Illinois at twelve years of age. He was early taught habits of industry and, being ambitious to advance in the world, he began working out while still a boy and after gaining a fair degree of experience in the various duties of the farm he rented land and engaged in agricultural pursuits on his own account. As years progressed he became prosperous and four years ago he acquired a well located farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Hickory Point township, where he now lives.

In 1884 Mr. Harrison was united in marriage to Maggie L. Renshaw, a daughter of John and Lydia A. (Steel) Renshaw, who were natives of Columbus, Ohio, and came to Illinois, where they became identified with the agricultural interests. They were the parents of four children: Carrie, now Mrs. Green, of Bloomington, Illinois; Maggie L.; Cora, now Mrs. Keller, of Los Angeles, California; and May, now Mrs. Reddick, of Decatur. Ten children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Harrison: Guy R., born in 1885, now living at home; Gertrude A., born in 1887; Benjamin, in 1888; John, in 1890; Fanny B., who was born in 1892 and died in infancy; Carrie, born in 1894; Mattie, in 1896; Joseph, in 1899; Margaret in 1901 and Alice, in 1903.

MR. AND MRS. M. M. HARRISON

Mr. Harrison is a stanch supporter of the republican party and is socially identified with Lodge No. 312, A. F. & A. M.; Lodge No. 17, K. P.; and Lodge No. 144, M. W. A., all being located at Decatur. In the various relations of life Mr. Harrison has attempted to perform his duty and as a result he has made many friends, who were attracted by his manly qualities of perseverance, industry and square dealing Mrs. Harrison, who is an intelligent and estimable lady, has been a constant support to her husband and as the mother of a large family she has inculcated by her example those principles of unselfishness and willingness to aid others which are so important in the promotion of happiness and goodwill.

JOHN H. PARK.

John H. Park, who is known as a useful and praiseworthy citizen of Macon county, is a native son of Illinois and was born in Morgan county, May 26, 1847. He is a son of John J. Park, who was born in Kentucky, November 18, 1813, and came to Illinois with his parents, Thomas and Jane (Fox) Park. The family settled in Morgan county upon one hundred and five acres of land and there the older members passed to their reward. John J. Park, the father of our subject, sold out his interest in Morgan county and bought land in Sangamon county, beginning with one hundred and twenty acres, to which he added eighty acres and became the owner of a well improved farm of two hundred acres. In 1865 he moved to Decatur, this county, and sold his farm and acquired a farm of eighty acres in Macon county, upon which he lived for three years, at the end of which time he retired to Decatur. He was the owner of the Park Place addition to Decatur, having himself laid out this addition. He was a useful citizen, who contributed according to his ability and opportunity in upbuilding any enterprise with which he was connected. He affiliated with the republican party but never aspired to official preferment. He departed this life in 1894, at the age of eighty-one years. The mother of our subject before her marriage was Eliza Jane Caldwell, who was born in Kentucky, August 19, 1820, and came to this state with her parents, who settled in Morgan county. She was called away April 15, 1901. Eleven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Park: Nancy J., who was twice married; John C., deceased; Sarah, now Mrs. Judson; David T.; Robert, who died in infancy; John H., the subject of this review; Mary C., now Mrs. McGinnis; James M.; Margaret; Samuel; and William M.

John H. Park was born in Morgan county and educated in the district schools. He was early inducted into all the operations of the farm, continuing with his father until 1871, when he began for himself by renting land in this county, south of the location which he chose in March, 1898, as his home. Here he bought a tract of eighty acres, which he has greatly improved. At one time he devoted considerable attention to raising draft horses, but during recent years has confined his operations to general farming with the favorable results that are usually attained by the application of well directed energy.

On March 14, 1880, Mr. Park was happily united in marriage to Miss Dora M. Rowe, who was born November 2, 1855, and is a daughter of John and Elizabeth Rowe. The parents were natives of Ohio and the father died in that state, but Mrs. Rowe came to Illinois about 1877 with her children and located at Decatur, where she died in 1892. Four children of Mr. and Mrs. Rowe are now living, J. Wesley, Willard, Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Anna Snyder. The beloved wife of our subject was summoned from earthly scenes October 28, 1896. She was the mother of four children: Jesse, who was born January 12, 1881, and died January 11, 1901; Nellie, who was born May 16, 1884, and died May 8, 1902; and Clara, born in 1886, and Anna, in 1888, both living at home.

Although Mr. Park has been called upon to suffer great affliction in the death of members of his family, he has bravely borne up and sturdily continued in his appointed tasks. Like his father, he is a supporter of the republican party. He has acted as road commissioner, discharging his duties in such a way as to receive the general commendation of the people of the community. He is an industrious and intelligent citizen and in his work as a farmer has attained deserved success.

NATHAN E. STICKEL.

Nathan E. Stickel is the owner of a farm of two hundred acres in sections 3 and 10, south Wheatland township, Macon county, which is recognized as one of the most productive farms in the region. He is well known as an active and progressive citizen, whose aim it is to keep abreast of the times and to assist to the extent of his ability in the upbuilding of the community.

He is a native of Macon county and was born April 1, 1869, a son of David H. and Lydia (Spangler) Stickel. David H. Stickel was born in Lewisberry, York county, Pennsylvania, February 8, 1835. He was a farmer and came to Illinois in 1857, locating in Macon county with his brother Wesley Stickel. A few years later his parents came to this state where they made their permanent home. At the outbreak of the Civil war Mr. Stickel enlisted in Company 1, Fifty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and participated with his regiment in some of the important battles of the war, including the battle of Huntsville, Alabama, Chattanooga and Nashville, Tennessee, and also took part in numerous smaller engagements. On account of loss of health he was honorably discharged from service at the end of one year and returned to this state where he recovered his health and in 1868 went to Pennsylvania and was married. He later resumed general farming and live-stock raising in Illinois, departing this life in Macon county, July 23, 1909, after a long and useful career. In politics he was a strong republican. He was also an active member of the Methodist church, being trustee and steward at Elwin for a number of years and assisting very materially in building up the organization. Mrs. Stickel is a native of Mount Royal, York county, Pennsylvania, where she was born in 1842, and she is now making her home with the subject of this review. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Stickel: Nathan E., our subject; Mary B., now Mrs. N. M.

Jacobs, of Decatur, Macon county; and Charles, born December 17, 1881, who married Alma E. Huddelson, of Blue Mound, and died December 8, 1909, the wife departing this life October 25, 1909.

Nathan E. Stickel was educated in the public schools of Illinois and also attended high school for three months, at the end of which time he began devoting his attention to the farm. For three years before his marriage he rented a farm owned by his father, on which he new lives, and then purchased eighty acres in section 3 of the same township, making his present farm of two hundred acres. In 1896 the father built a beautiful residence, modern in all respects, which is now occupied by the family and is one of the most attractive homes in the township.

In 1897 Mr. Stickel was happily united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Hill, a daughter of Joseph and Rose Mary (Stallings) Hill, who has proven to her husband a truly loyal and helpful companion. Their home has been blessed by the arrival of two children: Lloyd E., and Nathan C., now deceased. Mr. Stickel is a member of South Macon Lodge, No. 467, A. F. & A. M., and of Coeur de Leon Lodge, No. 17, Knights of Pythias, of Decatur. Politically he is identified with the republican party and he has occupied several public offices, serving as supervisor of the township, as collector for two terms, and is now a member of the school board. These duties he has discharged with great fidelity, receiving the hearty approval of the entire neighborhood. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Elwin, in which Mr. Stickel has served as trustee for ten years and also as steward. Mrs. Stickel is a member of the Ladies Aid Society and is actively interested in Sunday school work, she and her husband being interested workers in all causes that aim to promote the interests of the region.

WILLIAM T. HOWELL.

William T. Howell, a representative and enterprising farmer of Oakley township, has a good home on section 31 and his time and energies are successfully devoted to the raising of grain and stock. He now owns and cultivates nearly four hundred acres of land, constituting one of the well improved and valuable farms of Macon county. Moreover he is one of the venerable citizens here, having passed the eighty-first milestone on life's journey. His birth occurred in Sangamon county, Illinois, November 2, 1829.

His parents were James and Jane (Alsberry) Howell, both of whom were natives of Ohio. The father was born in Gallia county and about 1827 removed westward to Illinois, settling first in Sangamon county, while five years later he removed to Macon county, becoming one of the pioneer settlers of this part of the state. In fact the entire district was almost an unbroken wilderness and the year of his removal was that in which the Black Hawk war occurred. He entered land from the government, for the greater part of the broad prairies of Macon county were then under government control. Subsequently he bought land from time to time until he became the owner of over two hundred acres,

which he transformed into a productive farm, upon which he reared his family and spent his remaining days, his death occurring in 1871. He was laid to rest on the old home place and was survived by his wife for a number of years but at length she, too, passed to the home beyond.

W. T. Howell was reared to manhood in Macon county, spending his youthful days in Oakley township. He remained with his father until after he had passed the age of twenty-two years and assisted him in carrying on the farm. He was afterward employed as a farm hand by the month for three years and in this way got his start in life. He early learned the fact that diligence and industry constitute the basis of success and as the years passed on he won a very desirable measure of prosperity by reason of his close application and unfaltering perseverance.

As a companion and helpmate for life's journey Mr. Howell chose Miss Sarah Jane Trotter, whom he wedded on the 8th of March, 1853. Mrs Howell was born in Ohio and was brought to Illinois by her mother when a little maiden of six years. Previous to his marriage Mr. Howell had purchased eighty acres of land and had broken a part of this. He built a small house upon the place and after his marriage took up his abode there. With characteristic energy he began the further improvement and development of the property and from time to time has extended tthe boundaries of his farm until he now owns over two hundred acres of rich and valuable land, which responds readily to the care and labor that he bestows upon it. He erected a good two-story brick residence in modern style of architecture and it is one of the attractive homes of this part of the country. There is a large barn upon the place which he built, together with sheds and cribs and all of the accessories and improvements of a model farm of the twentieth century. He uses the best improved machinery to facilitate the work of the fields and everything about the place indicates his progressive spirit. What he has accomplished also indicates that he has made wise use of his time and opportunities, for he has been dependent upon his own resources from almost the time he attained his majority.

On Easter Sunday in 1910 sorrow came to the home of Mr. Howell, for on that day his wife passed away. She was born in Gallipolis, Ohio, December 27, 1833, and was therefore in the seventy-seventh year of her age at the time of her death. In her demise the family lost a loving and devoted wife and mother and her friends one who was ever faithful to their best interests. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Howell had been born a son and three daughters: John W., now a resident of California; Laura, the wife of James Hoots of Decatur, by whom she has one daughter, Anna, now a young lady; Henrietta, who, is acting as her father's housekeeper; and Fannie, the wife of George T. Hackler, living near Superior, Nebraska.

In his political views Mr. Howell is a stalwart democrat yet not so strongly partisan that he will not cast an independent ballot at local elections if he thinks the best interests of the community will be conserved thereby. The only offices that he has ever held have been those of highway commissioner and school director, for he has always preferred to give his attention to his business affairs and to leave office holding to those more desirous of securing the honors and emoluments of political preferment. His entire life has been passed in Illinois

and he has lived in Macon county since it was largely an undeveloped wilderness. His memory goes back to the time when there were no railroads through Decatur and in fact he has witnessed the growth of that city from little more than a crossroads village. He has seen the crude farm machinery of the early day replaced by the modern reaper, mower and harvester and can remember that time when it was no unusual thing to see candles used in lighting the homes of the early settlers. The fireplace, too, was a feature in every household, for in the days of his youth the modern cooking stove was unknown. The wives and daughters spun and wove cloth, while the father and sons worked in the fields. Many changes have occurred since those early days and progress has wrought a marvelous transformation. Mr. Howell has rejoiced in all that has been accomplished for the benefit of mankind and the upbuilding of the community and is today one of the honored and venerable citizens of Macon county, respected by all with whom he has been brought in contact.

C. F. SCHENCK.

C. F. Schenck, successfully engaged in the manufacture of cigars in Maroa, was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, on the 8th of February, 1862. His parents were Aaron and Rebecca (Barkalow) Schenck, who spent their entire lives in Ohio save for the period of their later days, when they resided with a daughter in Maroa. Their family numbered ten children of whom eight reached years of maturity.

C. F. Schenck pursued his education in the common schools of his native state and was reared upon the home farm in Ohio, giving his time and energies to the work of tilling the fields until twenty years of age, when he came to Maroa. During the succeeding two years he worked at the painter's trade and then went to Decatur where he remained for a year and a half, clerking in the store of R. Liddle. Returning to Maroa in 1885 he was engaged in the cigar manufacturing business, starting on a small scale. From 1887 until 1891 he had a partner, W. F. McClung, and the business was conducted under the firm name of Schenck & McClung. Since that time Mr. Schenck has been alone and the business has enjoyed continuous, substantial and rapid growth which is indicated by the fact that he now employs twenty-six people in the manufacture of cigars. This is by far the largest cigar factory in Macon county, the output being about a million and a half cigars annually. After starting in this business he went upon the road as a traveling salesman, representing his own house, and so continued until his sales reached a million a year. He also acted as bookkeeper and managed the business, which under his careful guidance and by reason of his progressive methods has developed into one of the extensive and profitable enterprises of the county. In addition to his industrial interests he is the owner of valuable farm land in both Idaho and Texas. His plantation in the latter state is situated near Houston, where he is engaged in the raising of rice. His farm in Idaho is situated in the Twin Falls district and is devoted to the raising of small grain. Both of these properties he manages from his office

in Maroa although he frequently makes trips to both the south and the northwest.

In 1886 Mr. Schenck was married to Miss Lilly A. Stoutenborough, a native of Macon county and a daughter of William H. Stoutenborough, of Maroa. Both he and his wife are devoted members of the Presbyterian church. He is now treasurer of the building committee of the new Presbyterian church, which is being erected at a cost of twenty-five thousand dollars and a new parsonage. The entire property will be worth about forty thousand dollars when completed. Mr. Schenck belongs also to the Knights of Pythias lodge and the Modern Woodmen camp, and in both of these has served as an officer. He is a man of unfaltering purpose and of laudable ambition and in his business affairs has displayed marked aptitude for successful management, together with a prompt and ready recognition and utilization of opportunities.

RICHARD J. ROBERTS.

Richard J. Roberts, whose death on the 16th of October, 1910, removed one of the old settlers of Decatur, his residence here covering a period of over fifty-three years, was born March 14, 1833, in Emmetsburg, Pennsylvania. His parents were John and Mary (Hughes) Roberts, the former also a native of the Keystone state and the latter of Wales. Spending his boyhood days in his father's home, Richard J. Roberts was trained to habits of industry and upon his mind were impressed lessons concerning the value of integrity, perseverance and upright character. He attended the district schools, the sessions of which were held in a log schoolhouse and when not busy with his text-books his time was largely occupied with the work of the home farm. In 1852, when nineteen years of age, he started westward, making his way to Cleveland, Ohio. He had previously learned the carpenter's trade, at which he was employed in Cleveland. In the fall of that year he came to Illinois, traveling over the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad to Peru and thence made his way by boat to Peoria, where he also worked at the carpenter's trade. Subsequently he went to Chicago and on the 31st of January, 1856, in Springfield, Ohio, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Jane Steele. They then located in that city, where they lived for a year and on the 1st of April, 1857, they came to Decatur, where Mr. Roberts sought employment at carpentering. He became a contracting carpenter and was engaged in that business until after the outbreak of the Civil war.

On the 9th of August, 1863, in this city, Mr. Roberts enlisted for active service in defense of the Union, joining the One Hundred and Fifteenth Illinois Infantry under command of Captain Hayes and Colonel John Moore. Early in the war he sustained injuries from which he never recovered and after six months' service he was honorably discharged. Following his return to Decatur he took up the business of house moving. He was the first to enter that field and for a long period was the only house mover of the city. He continued the business for forty years and became well known in that connection. In the spring

of 1904 he was appointed overseer of the poor and continued in that position until his death, which however, followed a long illness. In this position he was both capable and kind and did much not only to aid those immediately under his supervision but also to relieve the suffering of the deserving poor in other parts of the county. He was ever a man of kindly and benevolent spirit and had great sympathy for the unfortunate.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Roberts there were born four children: Ida, who died in early life; Eddie, who was accidently killed; Annie who became the wife of F. Imboden, and died leaving a daughter, Erma Frances; and Mabel W., who is the only surviving member of the family. Mr. and Mrs. Roberts traveled life's journey together for more than fifty-four years, celebrating their golden wedding in 1906. It was a notable occasion never to be forgotten by those who participated therein.

Mr. Roberts was a member of Macon Lodge, No. 8, A. F. & A. M. and Macon Chapter, No. 28, R. A. M., belonging to the fraternity for forty-seven years, during which period he exemplified in his life its beneficent principles. He also belonged to Dunham Post, No. 141, G. A. R. His political allegiance was given to the republican party but he never sought or desired office, save that which he was filling at the time of his death and which came to him by appointment of the board of supervisors. He long held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and his life was indeed an honorable and unright one, which, although quietly passed, was fruitful of much good by reason of his devotion to his family and his friends and the helpful spirit which he manifested toward all with whom he came in contact.

FRANK L. HAYS.

Frank L. Hays, secretary of the Decatur Club, was born in Delaware, Ohio, on the 23d of August, 1836, a son of Thomas and Abby (Johns) Hays. In the acquirement of an education he attended the public schools to the age of sixteen years and afterward devoted two years to pursuing the classical course in the Ohio Wesleyan University. He entered business circles at Delaware, Ohio, in connection with the dry goods trade but in 1855 sought the opportunities of the new and growing city of Decatur, where he arrived in July of that year. Here he began clerking for the firm of Stamper & Elliott, remaining with that house until October, 1857, when he utilized the capital which he had saved from his earnings in the establishment of a business of his own under the firm name of F. L. Hays & Company. They began with a capital of three thousand dollars. The business was continued under the original partnership relation until 1872, when the firm became Hays & Bruce and so continued until 1876. In 1865 Mr. Hays erected a business block on Water street and the trade was therein conducted. In 1876 E. D. Bartholomew became the junior partner and the firm style was changed to Hays & Bartholomew, but the latter sold his interest in 1879 to Thomas Hays and the old firm style of F. L. Hays & Company was resumed. In this way the business was carried on continuously and successfully until 1888, when they sold out and F. L. Hays retired to private life.

His history contains an interesting military chapter, for in August, 1862, he was instrumental in raising a company for service in the Civil war which became Company F of the One Hundred and Fifteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was commissioned its captain and in October, 1862, the troops marched against the Confederate general, Bragg, in Kentucky. In January, 1863, the regiment was sent to Tennessee and became a part of the reserve corps of the Army of the Cumberland. With his command Captain Hays participated in the battles of Chickamauga and Resaca, Georgia, and in June, 1864, was promoted to the rank of major and was made additional paymaster, so continuing until February, 1865, when shortly before the close of the war he resigned. While acting as paymaster he was stationed at Louisville, Kentucky, Springfield, Illinois, and Indianapolis, Indiana.

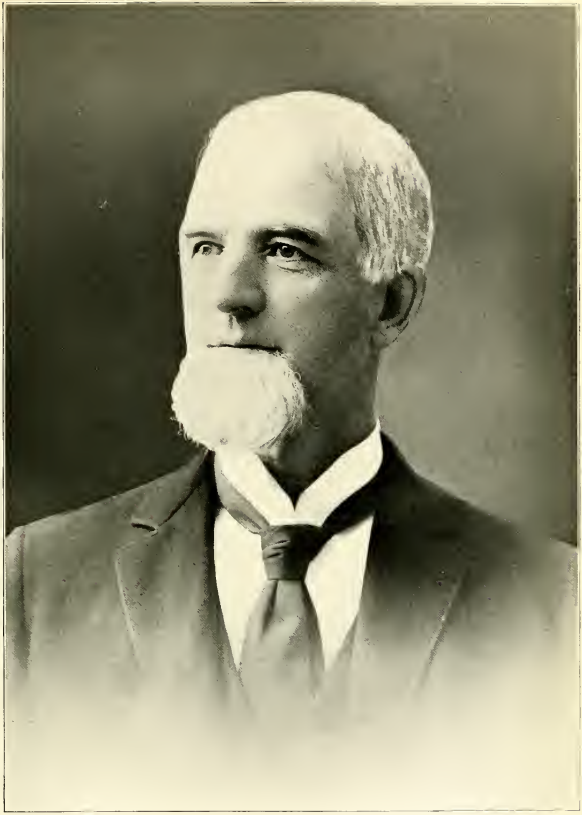
When the war was over Major Hays returned to his home and family. In September, 1861, he had married Miss Hattie White and unto them were born three sons and a daughter: Harry, now living in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Robert, a resident of Los Angeles, California; Frank L., of Chicago; and Madge, the wife of Dr. George C. Stemen, of Denver, Colorado.

In his political views Major Hays is a republican, voting for the candidates of the party since casting his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1860. He has served as city clerk of Decatur and was a member of the board of review in 1906. In 1892 he was elected commander of the Grand Army post of Decatur, of which he had previously served as quartermaster for fourteen years. He is now resident secretary of the Decatur Club, in which connection he has charge of the house books and dues and also has general supervision over the club. His residence in the city covers a period of fifty-five years, in which he has witnessed much of the substantial growth and progress of Decatur, bearing his full part in the work of general development and improvement.

KILBURN H. ROBY.

It is a pleasure to meet a man who by a long life of usefulness and integrity has gained the universal esteem of the community, and is enjoying the friendship and the honors which are the result of his own unselfish character. Such men are justly entitled to the respect in which they are held. Kilburn H. Roby, one of the oldest members of the Macon county bar, belongs to this class of men.

He was born at Mount Vernon, Hillsboro county, New Hampshire, September 2, 1837, and is a son of Clinton and Lois (Harwood) Roby. On both sides of the house our subject is descended from English ancestry, the early American representatives of the family arriving in Massachusetts during the colonial period. Soon after the Revolutionary war the great-grandfather, John Roby, moved from Chelmsford, Massachusetts, to Hillsboro county, New Hampshire, into what was then a wild frontier country. Members of the family have lived in that part of New Hampshire ever since, and from that region they have gone forth to various states of the Union. John Roby, the grandfather of our subject, was born in New Hampshire and lived to the age of eighty



K. A. Roby Sr

years. He was a man of peculiar traits, one of his characteristics being a remarkable memory, as he could repeat a great portion of the Bible. The father of our subject was born in New Hampshire in 1808, and was married to Lois Harwood in 1834. She was a native of Hillsboro county, born in 1811, whose ancestors removed from Massachusetts into New Hampshire at a very early day.

Kilburn H. Roby was the younger of two children, and the farm upon which he was born was his home until he reached the age of twenty years. He received his early education at Appleton Academy, Mount Vernon, New Hampshire, and at Northfield Seminary, now Tilton Seminary, an institution under charge of the Methodist church, which has for many years been in operation in New Hampshire. The schools named above were very thorough in those early days and gave their pupils a fine start in mental training, which to many of them has proved of untold value in after life.

In the spring of 1858, being then twenty-one years of age and desirous of making a place for himself in the world, Mr. Roby came to Illinois, spending the first summer at Quincy. In the fall he secured a position as teacher in the public schools of Marion county and there continued for two years. However, his mind was bent upon a professional career, and in 1859 he began the study of law under John P. Reynolds, for many years a member of the Cincinnati bar and now living in Chicago. Later he continued his study in the office of Bryan & Schaeffer, at Salem, Illinois, and in September, 1860, came to Decatur and entered the office of Tupper & Nelson. While still a law student, he enlisted in Company A, Forty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was sent with his regiment to St. Louis, Cairo and Paducah, being discharged at the latter place after four months' service on account of illness. Returning to Decatur, he resumed the study of law and was admitted to the Illinois bar in the spring of 1862. Mr. Tupper, of the firm of Tupper & Nelson, entering the army, Mr. Roby became a partner of William E. Nelson and continued with him about fifteen years, when the association was terminated by the election of Mr. Nelson to the bench. Our subject continued the practice of law until 1881 as senior member of the firm of Roby, Outten & Vail, one of the best known and most successful law firms of Decatur. As a lawyer Mr. Roby early gave indication of ability of a high order, and within a few years after he began practice he gained recognition as one of the able men at the bar. He has been identified with many of the most important cases in central Illinois, and before court or jury no man has commanded a more respectful hearing.

He has also been connected with various lines of business. In 1881 he became cashier of the Decatur National Bank and continued in that office for ten years, with the exception of the period from 1884 to 1885, when he was identified with the Haworth Manufacturing Company. In 1891 he was elected president of the bank of which he had been serving as cashier and filled the office of president with marked ability until 1904, when he retired on account of ill health. Since that time he has not been actively engaged in business affairs, but he continues as director and stockholder in the bank.

On the 1st of December, 1863, Mr. Roby was united in marriage to Miss Annie Haworth, a native of Clinton county, Ohio, and a daughter of Mahlon

Haworth, whose biography appears on another page of this volume.. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Roby, six of whom are now living. Frank C., born on the 21st of May, 1865, was married in Chicago, September 1, 1893, to Miss Ida M. Gordon, and they have three children: Helen E., born in June, 1894; Kilburn in October, 1898; and Frank C. in November, 1900. Mary Lois, born July 29, 1867, was married to Frederick A. Brown, of Decatur, in January, 1890, and to this union the following children were born: Marcus, who was born in Tacoma, Washington, and died there in 1893; Kilburn R., born in 1894; and Mary Lois, born in 1897. Mr. Brown, the father of these children, is now practicing law in Chicago. Edna A., the third child of Mr. and Mrs. Roby, was born March 14, 1869, and died in July, 1870. Kilburn H., born in 1871, married Miss Clara G. Greene, of Decatur, in 1900, and three children have been born to them: Oliver G., who was born September, 1903, and died in 1906; Thomas G., born in 1906; and Richard, March, 1908. The family live in Decatur. Luther E., born February 10, 1874, was married in Chicago to Isabelle Scott, in November, 1908, and one child has blessed this union, William Scott. The father is manager and treasurer of the Peoria Drill & Seeder Company. Sarah J., born January 14, 1876, was married May 21, 1903, to Captain Charles E. Hay, Jr., of the United States army. One child, John Leonard, born June 9, 1905, has resulted from this union. Annie Haworth, born April 10, 1878, was married at Decatur October 1, 1904, to Donald Vincent, of Fort Dodge, Iowa, and they have two daughters, Catherine, born December, 1907, and a baby, born October 30, 1910.

Mr. Roby has been identified with the republican party since 1860, his first vote having been cast for Abraham Lincoln as president of the United States. He has never sought political honors, but served for two years in the early part of his career as clerk and city attorney of Decatur. Possessing a logical mind and also a clear judgment in business affairs, he has been highly successful, both as a lawyer and as a man of business. His life has been an extremely active one, and his prosperity is the legitimate result of wisely directed effort. He has never been unmindful of his duties to the community, and his kindly interest in others has made for him a host of warm friends, who will ever regard him as a model citizen.

ORAN ARMSTRONG COOK.

Oran Armstrong Cook, who has been successfully engaged in business as a carpenter and contractor of Macon for more than three decades, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, on the 18th of September, 1851, his parents being James A. and Charlotte Ann (Hogentogler) Cook. The maternal grandparents, John and Mary Hogentogler, were natives of Pennsylvania and New York respectively. The paternal great-grandfather was a native of Germany and in the year 1777 three of his sons, one of whom was the grandfather of our subject, came to the United States in order to avoid military service. They

settled in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and the grandfather of our subject was one of eight men who built the fifth rolling mill in the United States.

James A. Cook, the father of Oran A. Cook, was the eldest child and only son in a family of six children and was but fourteen years of age when he became engineer in his father's rolling mill. Eventually he entered the service of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, acting as passenger engineer for five years. In 1856 he came to Illinois and for several years ran an engine on the Wabash Railroad out of Decatur. Returning to Pennsylvania, he remained in that state for a year and then once more came to Illinois, locating at Macon in 1860. Here he embarked in the carpentering and undertaking business, being the first undertaker in the town. He was continuously and successfully engaged in those lines of activity until called to his final rest in 1901 when in the seventy-fifth year of his age. At the time of the Mexican war he formed and was made captain of a company of infantry in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, but hostilities had ceased when the little band of soldiers reached Pittsburg. In 1846 he wedded Miss Charlotte Ann Hogentogler, a young lady of Scotch and German decent and the eldest in a family of twelve children. In association with seven others she formed and organized the first Methodist church in Macon and its first congregation assembled in the house in which our subject now resides. She passed away in 1875, when in the forty-ninth year of her age.

Oran A. Cook, who was the third in order of birth in a family of seven children, obtained his early education in the public schools of Illinois and subsequently entered the Northwestern University of Indiana at Indianapolis, from which institution he was graduated in 1875. That was the time of the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia and he went to the Quaker city in charge of the exhibit of the Chandler & Taylor Company of Indianapolis. During the remainder of the year he traveled for that concern, selling their machinery. Following his marriage in 1878 he took up carpentering and contracting and has since been engaged in contracting and building on an extensive and profitable scale, erecting elevators, etc.

In August, 1878, Mr. Cook was united in marriage to Miss Flora C. Aumock, whose birth occurred on the 31st of August, 1857, her parents being James and Caroline J. (Butt) Aumock, natives of Ohio. Mrs. Cook, who was the second in order of birth in a family of four children, has likewise become the mother of four children, namely: Fay, who was born April 30, 1881 and died on the 6th of August, 1883; Cecil Floyd, whose natal day was March 10, 1883, and who is still at home; Fleda Dee, born January 30, 1887, who gave her hand in marriage to Harry Herbert, of Macon, and now resides in Decatur; and Harry Harold, who first opened his eyes to the light of day on the 8th of November, 1888, and is still under the parental roof.

Politically Mr. Cook is a stanch advocate and supporter of the prohibition party, believing that the liquor traffic is the worst evil with which our country has to contend. He has been a member of the Modern Woodmen of America for the past twenty-four years and has occupied all of the chairs except one. At the present time he is acting as clerk of Macon Camp, No. 362. He is also identified with the Royal Neighbors, belonging to Fernleaf Camp at Macon, of which he has been a manager since its installation six years ago. He is likewise

a member of the Royal Templars of New York, the Good Templars and the degree lodge of Good Templars. His wife belongs to the Royal Neighbors and the Order of the Eastern Star. She is a devoted and consistent member of the Methodist church and Mr. Cook likewise attends its services. In his business career he has always faithfully executed the terms of a contract and met the obligations devolving upon him. He has thus established a reputation for undoubted integrity and his name is an honored one wherever he is known.

WILLIAM F. HURTT.

Among the citizens of Macon county who are actively identified with farming interests is William F. Hurtt, of Hickory Point township, a general farmer who by his industry and progressive spirit has gained the respect of his neighbors and the confidence of many of the responsible men in the community. He is a native of Ohio, born in Ross county in 1856, and is the son of John W. and Elizabeth (Ross) Hurtt, both natives of Ohio, the former born in 1825 and the latter in 1827. The mother was member of one of the early pioneer families of Ohio and died in 1862. The father continued upon the old home farm during the remainder of his life and was called away in April, 1895. Six children were born to them: Nelson, Roderick and John W., deceased; Evans, of Piqua, Ohio; William F., our subject; Margaret, now Mrs. Milton Junk, of Greeley, Colorado.

William F. Hurtt was educated in the public schools of Ross county and assisted his father upon the farm until 1872 when, at sixteen years of age, he came with his eldest brother to Piatt county, this state. He began farming upon his own account by renting eighty acres of land and later two hundred and forty acres, engaging in general farming in Piatt county until 1908, when he took up his residence in Macon county, where he rented a farm upon which he has since lived. By the application of sound principles he has been successful in his work and is the owner of a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of good land in Alberta, Canada. He also retains an interest in the old home place of one hundred and fifty-six acres in Ohio.

In 1878 Mr. Hurtt was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Robinson, of this state, a daughter of John L. and Louise (Huff) Robinson, who came from Coshocton county, Ohio, to Illinois in 1864 and settled in Piatt county. The father departed this life August 24, 1909, and the mother was called away in 1885. They were the parents of four children: William and Elmer, residing in Decatur; Elizabeth, now Mrs. Hurtt; and Beulah, deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Hurtt the following children have been born: Florence M., born in 1881, who married Charles Ball and died in July, 1905; Jennetta, who was born in 1884 and died in 1889; William Linley, born in 1896, who is living at home; and John Erwin, born in 1899, also at home.

Mr. Hurtt is politically in sympathy with the republican party, whose principles he accepts as those best adapted for the perpetuation of this government. Socially he is identfied with Lodge No. 344, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; Lodge No. 2252, Modern Woodmen of America, and Lodge No. 652,

Court of Honor, all of Bement, Illinois. He is a consistent member of the Methodist church and takes an active part in its work, and by his wide sympathies and willing cooperation in all laudable undertakings for the benefit of others less fortunate than himself he has made many friends in the region with which he is closely identified. The country is in need of men like Mr. Hurtt and the happiness and permanent welfare of society depend in a large measure upon new accessions to their ranks and the cultivation of those principles of brotherhood that form the basis of all good government.

ANDREW J. TRIMMER.

Andrew J. Trimmer, a native of the Keystone state, who has for more than half a century made his home in Macon county, was born on the 27th of September, 1839. He is a son of Joseph F. and Catherine (Fetrow) Trimmer, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, the former being born in 1814 and the latter in 1820. They were married in their native state and emigrated to Illinois in 1853, settling in Macon county. The father was a farmer and was the owner in Pennsylvania of two hundred acres of land, but after arriving in this state he rented land for eleven years, at the end of which time he bought the Mound farm, where he had been living, which consisted of one hundred and sixty acres. Later he acquired a farm lying one mile eastward of one hundred and sixty acres. He was one of the successful agriculturists of the county and a man who was highly respected for many good qualities. Politically he was an adherent of the republican party, believing that its principles were those most essential for the prosperity and perpetuity of our government. He departed this life in 1886 and twenty years later his faithful companion was called away. They were the parents of nine children: Andrew J., our subject; William, who died in 1864; Abram, now living in Ohio; Joseph, of Macon county; Mary, who married Isaiah Henry, her husband being deceased; Daniel, of Indiana; Henry, deceased; John, of Decatur, and George, deceased.

The subject of our review was fourteen years of age when he came to this state. He received his education in the district schools and after laying his books aside assisted his father for six years upon the farm. At twenty-one years of age he began renting land for himself and so continued in this county for twenty-four years, at the end of which time his wife inherited the farm of one hundred and twenty acres, six acres of which are occupied by the railroad, and here the family has since made its home and the farm has been brought to a high degree of cultivation under the experienced management of our subject.

In 1862 Mr. Trimmer was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Rife, a daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Garver) Rife, natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Illinois in 1840 and settled in this county. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Rife: Jacob and Joseph, both deceased; and Elizabeth, herein mentioned. Ten children have blessed the household of Mr. and Mrs. Trimmer: Mary, now Mrs. Daniel Flickinger; Grant, who lives upon the homestead with his father; Libby, now Mrs. J. Weldy, of Decatur; William, of Decatur; Ida, now Mrs.

Workman; Louisa, who became the wife of Domer Westhaver, of Sinton, Texas; Grace; Stella, now Mrs. Danzusen of Decatur; Irvin, and Charles, of Bearsdale, Macon county.

Mr. Trimmer demonstrated his loyalty to the government under which he was born by enlisting in the One Hundred and Forty-fifth Illinois Infantry, in 1864. He served faithfully for six months and no man rejoices more heartily over the result of the great conflict than he. He is identified with Dunham Post, No. 141, G. A. R., of Decatur, and since casting his first ballot has been an earnest adherent of the principles of the republican party. He is a stanch friend of education and for forty years past has shown his interest in the training of the young for the important duties of life, acting as member of the board of directors of his school district. Mr. and Mrs. Trimmer have always assisted in any worthy enterprise of their neighborhood and as intelligent and progressive members of the community have made many friends.

Mr. Trimmer was a good soldier and he has in private life maintained the reputation of a worthy citizen, who as the head of a large and interesting family has had many responsibilities, which he has discharged with courage and fidelity. He is known as a worthy representative of the agricultural interests of Macon county.

JACOB LUTHER WALDEN.

Jacob Luther Walden, attorney at law of Decatur, was born in Shelby county, Illinois, on the 5th of June, 1879, being one of the four children of Jacob and Sarah (Harsh) Walden, the former a native of Illinois and the latter of Indiana. His youthful days were spent upon the home farm with the usual experiences that fall to the lot of the farm boy. He attended the district schools and afterward pursued a course in the Austin Normal at Effingham, Illinois. He then turned his attention to teaching, which profession he followed in the district schools and afterward spent a year as a principal of the schools of Findlay, Shelby county. Later he was for three years principal of the schools of Dalton City in Moultrie county but, while he proved a capable and successful educator, his ambition tended in another direction and he began preparation for the bar. While teaching Shelby county he read law under Judge Thornton of the firm of Thornton & Ragen and following the death of the judge he continued his reading under W. H. Ragen. His mastery of the principles of jurisprudence secured his admission to the bar in Illinois on the 16th of October, 1905, in which year he began practice in Shelby county, where he continued until September, 1908, when he sought a still broader and more favorable field in Decatur and has since been a member of the bar of this city. In the intervening period of a little more than two years he has given ample proof of his ability, so that a liberal clientage is now accorded him and his name figures in connection with the trial of many important litigated interests. In 1910 he was admitted to practice in the federal courts.

In 1905 Mr. Walden was married in Newton, Illinois, to Miss Fannie Kellogg, of Ohio, and unto them have been born two children: Ruth Evangeline, four and a half years of age; and George Luther, who is a year old. Mr. Walden holds membeship with the Masonic fraternity and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Windsor, Illinois, and belongs to the First Methodist Episcopal church—associations which indicate much of the nature of his interests and the principles that govern his conduct.

EDWARD W. NULL.

Edward W. Null, postmaster of Niantic, is a striking instance of the effect of self reliance and fortitude when adopted as principles of action early in life. At nine years of age he was deprived by death of his beloved mother and two years later his father was called away, leaving the son alone to fight the battle with the world. How he succeeded is told in the story of his life. He is a native of Missouri and was born at Middletown, Mongomery county, September 17, 1870, a son of Isaiah and Sarah (Lindsay) Null. The father was born near Taneytown, Maryland, and the mother in Ohio. They met at Middletown and there they were married. Mr. Null was a soldier for the Union at the time of the Civil war and served as sergeant in Company C, of Fagg's Fifth Regiment, Missouri State Militia.

As an orphan boy of eleven years the subject of this review went to Taneytown, Maryland, where he took up his home with a cousin, Samuel Null, a farmer of Maryland, and there continued for seven years, during which time he assisted upon the farm and gained a common-school education. After arriving at eighteen years of age he began to work for himself as a carpenter, showing an aptitude for the trade which indicated him to be a natural mechanic. Later he went to Philadelphia and worked at the tinner's trade and also had some experience in a sawmill in Carroll county, Maryland. Having a desire to see more of the world and also to take advantage of larger opportunities, he came to Macon county about 1891 and for one season worked on a farm near Niantic. After this he engaged in carpenter work for two years and was then employed as a clerk by J. A. Cussins in Niantic. Going to St. Louis, he spent one winter in that city, but returned to Macon county and soon entered the employ of Pritchett Brothers, hardware dealers of Niantic, doing the tin work of the firm and also clerking in the store. On January 24, 1907, he was appointed postmaster of Niantic and has since conducted the office to the entire satisfaction of the government officials at Washington and of the people of Niantic and vicinity.

In 1900 Mr. Null was happily united in marriage to Miss Katy Corbett, of Niantic, a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Ryan) Corbett. Mr. Null cast his first presidential ballot for William Henry Harrison in 1892 and has ever since been a stanch adherent to the republican party. He and his wife are both identified with the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is an official mem-

ber, serving as trustee. He holds membership in Niantic Camp, No 329, Modern Woodmen of American, and served as venerable consul of the camp for one year. He is also connected with Lodge No. 104, Yeomen of America, and has acted as secretary and treasurer of the local lodge since the time of its organization. Mr. Null is conscientious and capable in the performance of his duties and thus merits the esteem in which he is held by the community. Inheriting worthy traits from sturdy parentage, he has always attempted to do his work well, so that now he enjoys a comfortable income and is on the highroad to a permanent prosperity.

CHARLES W. BATTLES.

Charles W. Battles, of Decatur, for many years a carpenter, railroad man and builder and now devoting his attention to his investments, was born at Mount Vernon, Hillsboro county, New Hampshire, August 18, 1843. He is a son of Thomas W. and Lucy M. (Stevens) Battles and comes of a long-lived family. The grandfather, Samuel Battles, who was born at Plymouth, Massachusetts, became a sea captain and owned the vessel in which he sailed for seventeen years. After acquiring a fortune he purchased three farms in New Hampshire, upon which he settled his sons. Captain Battles was one of the active and progressive men of his time and had he lived in the twentieth century would have been known as a captain of industry. He died at the advanced age of ninety-three years and nine months. The father of our subject spent the greater part of his life in New Hampshire but came to Decatur in 1889 and died in this city at the age of ninety-three years and three months.

The boyhood days of Charles W. Battles were spent on a farm and he received a common-school education, later attending Appleton Academy. At nineteen years of age he began to serve an apprenticeship as carpenter and received two dollars a day from the time of starting, as he showed great aptitude for the trade, having inherited this talent from his father. For about ten years he continued as a carpenter in New Hampshire and then, seeking for a new field, he came west, reaching Decatur, January 5, 1869. Here he entered the employ of the Wabash Railway as a carpenter but was advanced to the position of road master and maintained headquarters at Litchfield and later at Decatur. He continued with the railway for fifteen years and then began business for himself, buying tracts of land adjoining the city and platting the same. He also built many residences and in his operations was very successful. C. W. Battles' subdivision on Union and Church streets, Decatur, is named after our subject and is one of the handsome residence portions of the city. For ten or twelve years past he has devoted his attention mainly to looking after his investments.

On August 18, 1869, Mr. Battles was united in marriage to Miss Emma L. Spring, the ceremony being performed at the Sherman House, Chicago, by the Rev. W. H. Rider. Mrs. Battles was born at Wilton, New Hampshire, May 31, 1845, and is a daughter of John Clark and Lorena J. (Jaquith) Spring.

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES W. BATTLES

Her father died when she was about eight years of age and her mother soon afterward removed to Salmon Falls, Strafford county, New Hampshire, where the daughter attended school for several years, and then the mother located in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, giving her daughter opportunity for training in the normal school as a teacher. She began teaching as a supply in Allegheny and later in the country at Dorseyville, coming to Chicago with her brother, John L. Spring, an attorney of Lebanon, New Hampshire, who also served as a member of the New Hampshire legislature. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Battles: Flora, now the wife of C. W. Lewman, postal clerk of Decatur, and the mother of three children, Ruth, Doris and Elsie Battles; and Ella, who is the wife of Frank L. Suffern, of Decatur, and the mother of five children, Howard L., Charles W., Frank L., Edna Battles and Paul R.

Mr. Battles cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln as president of the United States in 1864 and has ever since closely adhered to the republican party. He has never aspired to public office but devoted his attention principally to his own affairs and now in the evening of life he is able to enjoy a rest and relaxation as the direct result of many years of well directed labor. He has no reason to regret that he selected Illinois as his adopted state, as here many of his dreams have been realized. Here, where he has spent nearly forty years, he has by honorable methods built up a fortune. It is hardly necessary to add that he and his estimable wife have many friends in this community.

I. NEWTON BRICKER.

I. Newton Bricker is now practically living retired although he engages to some extent in loaning money and thus encourages industry and enterprise in the county. For a long period he was closely identified with farming interests, owning and operating a tract of land of eighty acres in Friends Creek township. During more than half a century he has lived in Illinois, residing for a brief period in Piatt county, ere his removal to Macon county in 1865. He was then a young man of about eighteen years. His birth occurred in Coshocton county Ohio, June 19, 1847, and there he resided to the age of ten years, when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Piatt county, Illinois. His father, Aaron Bricker, was a native of Pennsylvania and in that state spent the first seventeen years of his life, after which he went to Ohio where he met and married Miss Louisa Darling. He followed farming and stock-raising in the Buckeye state, continuing his residence there until 1858, when he removed westward to Illinois, taking up his abode upon a farm in Piatt county. There he resided for seven years and in 1865 came to Macon county.

During the period of his youth I. Newton Bricker pursued his education in the common schools and worked with his father upon the home farm, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. There is no event of special importance to vary the routine of farm life for him in his boyhood and youth and in fact his entire life has been in a measure quietly passed, yet his record is that of a man who is classed with the substantial

citizens of the community. It is the business man, men who are capable, energetic and faithful in their own affairs, who constitute the real strength of a community. In the year 1872 Mr. Bricker was married in Macon county to Miss Clara Young, who was born and reared in this county. They began their domestic life upon his farm which he cultivated and developed, adding to it many substantial and modern improvements. Early spring found him busy in the fields preparing his land for the crops and in the autumn he gathered good harvests. In his barn and feed lots were found good grades of stock, which he raised and fed for the market and this brought him a substantial financial return. He continued to reside upon the farm until 1904, when he sold that property and removed to Argenta, where he erected a good residence which he now occupies. Here he is practically living retired but engages to some extent in loaning money.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Bricker was born a daughter, Grace, now the wife of Jacob Noble, of Sangamon county. In the fall of 1890 Mr. Bricker was again married, his second union being with Miss Lillie Anderson, a native of Ohio, who was reared and educated in that state and in Decatur, having become a resident of the city in her girlhood days. She is a member of the Presbyterian church of Argenta and is most widely and favorably known in the town. Politically Mr. Bricker is a republican and while he keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day never seeks nor desires office. Both he and his wife are much esteemed in the community in which they live. He has long been regarded as a careful, conservative and conscientious business man, of strict integrity and of personal worth, who is thoroughly identified with the prosperity and progress of Argenta and Macon county.

OTTOMER SCHMACHTENBERGER.

Ottomer Schmachtenberger is now living retired in Decatur, having closed the record of an active business life of more than twenty years' connection with railway interests in this part of the country. He has made his home in Decatur since 1906. He was born in Stark county, Ohio, April 28, 1858, and is a son of Samuel and Ann Eliza (Schaefer) Schmachtenberger. The father was born on a farm that now constitutes a part of the site of the city of Canton, Ohio, his natal year being 1823. He was a son of Rudoph Schmachtenberger, who was born in Germany and in his youth became a resident of Ohio, probably in the latter part of the eighteenth century. On the journey across the Atlantic both of his parents died while on shipboard when making the voyage in one of the old-time sailing vessels. They had a son and daughter who, on arriving in New York, became separated, the sister of Rudolph Schmachtenberger being taken south and adopted by a southern family. Rudolph Schmachtenberger first settled in Pennsylvania and afterward removed to Ohio, where he died at the age of about seventy years. His son, Samuel Schmachtenberger, became a lumber merchant and manufacturer of sash, doors and building supplies. In 1865 he removed westward to Clark county, Illinois, where he conducted a similar busi-

ness and later made his home in Terre Haute, Indiana, where he continued in the same line up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1899, when he was seventy-six years of age. His wife, who was born in 1824, survived until 1902.

Ottomer Schmachtenberger was a pupil in the public schools to the age of sixteen years, when he entered his father's employ, continuing in active connection with the business until 1886. He then entered the employ of the Wabash Railroad Company as fireman and later was made engineer, running between Decatur and St. Louis. He likewise was engineer on the Alton Railroad between Bloomington and St. Louis, being in charge of both freight and passenger trains. He retired in 1906 and removed to Decatur. During his twenty years' service on the road he never had a wreck, always attending strictly to business and requiring his firemen to do the same. All men who worked under him were required to be most careful and in this way all accidents and trouble were avoided.

On the 25th of November, 1879, Mr. Schmachtenberger was married to Miss Alice Beauchamp, of Clark county, Illinois, a daughter of William and Margaret (Hill) Beauchamp, who were natives of this state and successful farming people but are now deceased. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Schmachtenberger are: Gertrude, who is now the wife of J. H. Shuman, of Roodhouse, Illinois, and has one child, Floyd H., born January 20, 1910; Mabel, a teacher in the public schools of Decatur; Floyd, who was born March 13, 1890, and now holds a clerical position in the office of the Wabash Railroad at Decatur; Gladys, a high-school student; and Leonard, who died in 1889 at the age of six years.

Mr. Schmachtenberger is a member of the Modern Woodmen camp and also of the Modern Americans. His political allegiance is given to the democracy and his family attend the Methodist church. He is now the owner of improved city real estate and residence property and is also interested in Texas and Arkansas farm lands. He deals some in real estate and owns a modern home at No. 1329 West Macon street. He started out in life empty handed and as the years have passed has won success, gaining his prosperity by economical living, conservative business methods and judicious investment. His holdings, with the income derived therefrom, are now sufficient to enable him to live retired and rest from the arduous labors to which he formerly gave such close attention.

HENRY W. FATHAUER.

Henry W. Fathauer, who is actively engaged in the pursuits of farming and stock-raising, makes his home on section 17, Mount Zion township, and is the owner of four hundred acres of well improved land in Macon and Moultrie counties. His birth occurred in Baden, Germany, on the 12th of June, 1859, his parents being Christian and Louise (Reimer) Fathauer. The father, who was a farmer by trade, passed away in 1880, while his wife was called to her final rest in 1878. Christian Fathauer had emigrated to the United States in company with his son Henry in the year 1873 but after a short time returned to the fatherland, leaving our subject here to care for himself.

Henry W. Fathauer received his early education in the schools of his native land and after coming to America continued his studies in Macon county, being at that time a youth of fourteen years. Since that early age he has been dependent upon his own resources for a livelihood, being first employed as a farm hand. In 1880 he started out as an agriculturist on his own account by renting a tract of eighty acres and the success which has crowned his labors is indicated by the fact that he is now the owner of four hundred acres of finely improved land in Macon and Moultrie counties. The land is all tilled and under a high state of cultivation. Mr. Fathauer resides on section 17, Mount Zion township, in a modern and attractive dwelling. In connection with the tilling of the soil he makes a specialty of stock-raising, breeding Duroc Jersey hogs. He well merits the pround American title of a self-made man, for the prosperity which he now enjoys is attributable entirely to his intelligently directed labors and good management. He is now able to indulge in all of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life and recently purchased an automobile.

On the 28th of February, 1884, Mr. Fathauer was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Reeter, of Macon county, her parents being Fred and Caroline (Busher) Reeter, natives of Hanover, Germany. They took up their abode in this county in 1882 and here the father successfully carried on general agricultural pursuits until the time of his demise in 1888. Mrs. Fathauer has two brothers and one sister living. By her marriage she has become the mother of five children, as follows: Ida M.; Caroline Louise; Walter W., whose natal day was November 26, 1892; Viola L.; and Ora G.

Mr. Fathauer is a republican in politics but does not consider himself bound by party ties and at local elections frequently casts an indepedent ballot, supporting the candidate whom he believes best qualified. For nine years he held the position of school trustee and for eight years has acted as a school director. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the United Brethren church. As the architect of his own fortunes he has builded wisely and well, and his life record is an excellent exemplification of the fact that opportunity is open to all and that the road of usefulness and unfaltering activity eventually leads to the goal of prosperity.

TOM W. PITNER.

Tom W. Pitner is a representative of the manufacturing interests of Decatur, where he is engaged in the manufacture of burial shoes, conducting one of the two enterprises of this character in the country. He was born December 21, 1875, in the city which is still his home, his parents being W. C. and S. R. (Starr) Pitner. The father's birth occurred near Nashville, Tennessee, August 19, 1828, and the mother was born in Lewisberry, Pennsylvania, March 27, 1839. The family is of German lineage, although the grandfather was born in Tennessee. In the maternal line Mr. Pitner comes of Scotch and Welsh ancestry. In the year 1866 his father became a resident of Decatur and is a prominent and well known photographer, having practiced his art for fifty-five years and

having now the oldest established studio in the city. A man of liberal education, he was at one time a student in McKendree College, at Salem, Illinois. He had driven overland from Tennessee to North Prairie in 1837 and settled upon a farm, while later he turned his attention to educational interests and afterward to photography. His father was a soldier in the American army in the war of 1812 and when the country became engaged in civil warfare W. C. Pitner enlisted in the One Hundred and Nineteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for two years and nine months. He was mustered out at St. Louis and afterward came to Decatur, where he established his photographic studio, which he still owns, although he is now practically living retired. He has one brother, ninety-seven years of age, who still engages to some extent in the practice of medicine in Clay city, Illinois, and another brother, eighty-nine years of age, who is a retired minister. W. C. Pitner has reached the age of eighty-two years and is one of the most highly respected and honored residents of Decatur.

Tom W. Pitner attended the ward and high schools of Decatur until graduated with the class of 1894. Later he devoted two years to study in the Jacksonville college and on the completion of his education was employed by Bixby, Pitner & Company, manufacturers of burial shoes. In that connection he gained his practical experience in the line of business in which he is now engaged. After the death of his brother he purchased his share in the business and later became sole owner of the enterprise. He is engaged successfully in the manufacture of burial shoes, a patented article, the patents being owned by him. Mr. Pitner has been successful from the outset and his trade shows substantial increase annually.

On the 4th of August, 1903, Mr. Pitner was united in marriage to Miss Emma M. Muthersbaugh, of Decatur, a daughter of J. H. and Alice R. (Alexander) Muthersbaugh, the father a native of Pennsylvania and the mother of Bement, Illinois. They became well known residents of Decatur, where the father died May 13, 1909. Mrs. Muthersbaugh still survives and yet makes her home in this city. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Pitner has been born a little son, Tom W., whose birth occurred September 14, 1906. In his political views Mr. Pitner is a republican and in religious faith a Methodist. Mr. Pitner has become well established as a leading and representative business man of the city and well merits the success which has come to him.

ALBERT A. BAUER.

Among the successful business men of Macon county the name of Albert A. Bauer occupies an honored place. A native of the Buckeye state, he was born at Loyal Oak, Summit county, December 22, 1865, and is a son of John J. and Catherine (Eberhart) Bauer. The father was born in Northampton county, Pennsylvania, March 12, 1825, and the mother in Medina county, Ohio, September 5, 1828. John J. Bauer, who was a farmer and a man of many worthy traits

of character, departed this life on the 18th of January, 1908, his faithful wife having been called away three weeks previously, on December 29, 1907. Seven children were born to them, five of whom are now living: M. M., a practicing physician of Lake, Ohio; B. B., a resident of Medina county, Ohio; J. M., of Cleveland, Ohio; Cora, the wife of W. H. Stocker, of Akron, Ohio; and Albert A.

The subject of this review was educated in the common schools and high school of his native township and began his active career as a school teacher in Summit county. After leaving home he was employed for two years on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad but later went to Cleveland and for eight years served as foreman in the Cleveland Rolling Mills. Being attracted westward, he came to Blue Mound, Illinois, in 1889 and for five years served as clerk in the store of which he is now one of the proprietors. Returning to Cleveland, he was for six years foreman of a wire mill, but in 1901 he took up his permanent residence in Blue Mound, purchasing a half interest in the firm of Bradley & House, the junior member having died. The title of the firm was changed to Bradley & Bauer, and the firm deals exclusively in furniture, undertaking supplies, hardware, agricultural implements, buggies, queensware, wall paper and also does a heating and plumbing business. In 1902 Mr. Bauer took a course of instruction in the National Embalming School at St. Louis, and the undertaking department of the firm receives his special attention. He is also in charge of the plumbing and heating department and, being a thorough mechanic, he is enabled to give expert attention to this work. The firm owns three store rooms, having a frontage of one hundred and twenty feet and extending back one hundred feet, and carries a large and well selected line of goods, which meet the demands of a constantly growing patronage.

On the 8th of December, 1889, Mr. Bauer was united in marriage to Miss Dora House, who was born in Medina county, Ohio, a daughter of Elazier and Flora (Martin) House. The father was a native of Jefferson county, Ohio, and came to Illinois at an early date, settling at Blue Mound. He died in 1889, at the age of sixty-eight years. There were three children in the family: Samuel, who died in 1890; James E., who died in 1900; and Dora, now Mrs. Bauer. One child, Ruth House, born August 23, 1892, brightened the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bauer. She received a good education in the public schools and later studied music under Mrs. Beal of Decatur. She is now a successful music teacher and is living at home. The family occupy a handsome residence in the northwest part of Blue Mound, which has been twice rebuilt under the direction of Mr. Bauer.

Mr. and Mrs. Bauer are both members of the Methodist church, and he is chorister. He is also manager of the Blue Mound band. He is an adherent of the democratic party but has never aspired to political honors, preferring to devote his attention to his private affairs. Socially he holds membership in the Masonic order and has taken the Royal Arch degree. He is past master of the blue lodge and grand lecturer of the order and is also identified with the Woodmen of the World. During the nine years in which he has been prominently connected with the business interests of Blue Mound he has made a host of friends. Exceedingly thorough in all he undertakes and conscientious in the discharge of every trust, he has won deserved standing as a progressive and

capable man of business, who has assisted materially by his kindly and generous disposition in adding to the comfort and happiness of those with whom he has associated. As a musician he has talents of a high order and in this department he is doing a work which is highly appreciated by the entire community.

JAMES M. SCOTT.

Among the farmers of Macon county who deserve notice in this work on account of success in their calling is James M. Scott. He was born in Clinton county, Illinois, October 30, 1849, and is a son of James R. and Maria (Bousman) Scott. The father was a native of South Carolina where he was born in 1827. The mother was born in Ohio in 1829. They both came to Illinois very early in life with their parents who settled in Clinton county. Mr. and Mrs. Scott located in Macon county in 1861. The beloved mother departed this life in 1889 and the father in February, 1901. They were the parents of eleven children, five of whom are now living: James M., our subject; Bolivar C., of Kansas; Olive, now Mrs. H. B. Dills, of Decatur; John R., of Blue Mound township, Macon county; and George F., of Harrison county, Iowa.

James M. Scott received his education in the common schools and as he grew up became thoroughly familiar with all the details of agriculture and stock-raising. He continued with his parents until he was twenty-eight years of age, then becoming foreman of the Blue Mound elevator, in which position he continued for six years. After serving for one year in a similar capacity at Boody, he began to farm on his own account and after his marriage he settled in Decatur for a time and later devoted his attention to farming in Blue Mound and Pleasant View townships. He is now in charge of one hundred and sixty acres which he cultivates most successfully and where he also raises a high grade of live-stock, receiving good returns upon the time and labor expended.

On the 9th day of December, 1885, Mr. Scott was united in marriage to Miss Ida Betz, who was born in Ohio, November 27, 1863. She is a daughter of Samuel and Catherine (Weidman) Betz, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania in 1832 and the latter in Wisconsin in 1834. They came to Illinois in 1866 and now make their home in Blue Mound. There were nine children in the family, six of whom are living: Charlotte, now Mrs. Charles Herman, of Christian county; Ida, herein mentioned; John, of Blue Mound; Rose, the widow of Stephen Etter, and now living near Illinois; Mary, the wife of Benton Davidson, of Blue Mound; and Charles, of Farmersville, Montgomery county, Illinois. Four children came to brighten the home of Mr. and Mrs. Scott: Dove, born August 19, 1886, a graduate of the high school of Blue Mound and now a successful music teacher; Fay D., born January 3, 1889, also a graduate of the Blue Mound high school, and a very successful teacher in Macon county; Beulah Fern, born May 8, 1896, in Saline county, Nebraska, now at home, and Robert L., born in Christian county in July, 1898. Joseph M. Scott, an uncle of our subject, now lives in Blue Mound, and Samuel, John and Alexander Weidman,

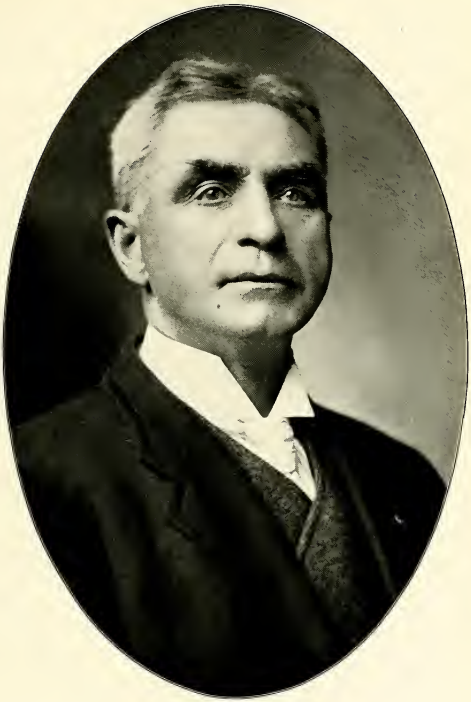
uncles of Mrs. Scott on her mother's side, enlisted from Ohio and Wisconsin and nobly served in the cause of the Union.

Mr. Scott is identified with the democratic party and although he has not sought political honors, he has served faithfully as collector. He holds membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and acted as deputy in that organization for five years. Mrs. Scott is a member of the Christian church and an earnest worker in behalf of the social and religious progress of those with whom she is associated. Our subject began his active career upon his own resources and has made a success of it. The head of a bright and intelligent family, he has been greatly blessed in the companionship of a wife who has been indeed to him a true helpmate. Their home is the abode of comfort and happiness and the center of culture and good will, whose influence is felt in the entire community.

FRANK DOUGLAS TORRENCE.

Frank Douglas Torrence, superintendent of city parks of Decatur, was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, July 1, 1855, and is a son of James and Rebecca (Thatcher) Torrence, also natives of the Keystone state. The father was born near Carlisle and the mother at Beaver Falls. She was of Quaker parentage and received a fine education, serving as teacher in the University of Pennsylvania in her young womanhood. James Torrence was a blacksmith and taught his trade to each of his five sons. The family was of good fighting stock on the paternal side and the men were known for generations as warriors. Grandfather Torrence served in the Revolutionary war and became a colonel in the patriot army and his father was also a soldier. James Torrence followed his trade during his entire active career and died in central Ohio. Later his wife came west and departed this life at the home of our subject. Eight children came to brighten their home. Joseph, one of the older sons, gained a national reputation, enlisting under the stars and stripes in the Civil war and becoming a general. He was wounded at the battle of Perryville and after the war went to Chicago as a blacksmith and amassed a fortune there. He died in Chicago in November, 1896. The other members of the family were: Oscar, a soldier of the Civil war, who carried messages for General Grant and lost his life in the battle of the Wilderness; James H. and Stewart A., twins; Frank D., our subject; Seneth, deceased; Eliza, who married Stewart Hodge, of Pennsylvania, and is deceased; and Elizabeth, the wife of John Dailey, who was killed at the battle of Atlanta.

Frank Douglas Torrence was educated in the public schools and followed the blacksmith's trade for several years, then becoming interested in civil engineering, to which he devoted his attention exclusively until 1901. In 1876 he located at Bement, Piatt county, Illinois, where he followed his profession with marked success. In 1901 he came to Decatur as superintendent of the city parks and has since continued in that position. At the time he assumed the office Fairview park was entirely unimproved and was a field rented by the city. Mr. Torrence promoted a movement for an appropriation of eight thousand dollars by the city for



FRANK D. TORRENCE

the purchase of the land, the payments extending over a period of four years. He has devoted a great deal of attention to this park and it now contains fifty acres and is one of the most beautiful spots in central Illinois. When Mr. Torrence assumed charge Lincoln park of twenty-two acres was a dumping ground but he is now transforming it into a lovely place of recreation, in which a modern driveway has been completed and a street, which has been named Torrence avenue in honor of its projector. The park is located on the Sangamon river in one of the most charming spots in Illinois. Mr. Torrence also has supervision of Central Park, which consists of three acres in the heart of the city and is one of the most attractive breathing spots that could be conceived. His home is at the entrance of Fairview park and under his supervision it has been made one of the most inviting residences in the city.

On August 4, 1874, Mr. Torrence was united in marriage to Emma Phillips, a daughter of Joseph Phillips, of Ohio, who died July 17, 1905, One child, Rebecca, was born July 2, 1878. Our subject was married a second time, in 1907, to Nellie Atherton Elliot whose father was for many years a prominent merchant of this city.

Mr. Torrence is affiliated with the White Cross, the Improved Order of Red Men, the Knights of Pythias and the Decatur Club. His religious belief is indicated by membership in the Congregational church. In him his fellow townsmen have found those worthy qualities and traits of character that make the useful citizen and no man in Decatur is more highly respected. He owes his high standing to his industry, integrity and good judgment. He also is the happy possessor of a genial nature and kind heart that endear him to all with whom he comes in contact.

HENRY L. HOCKADAY.

Among the younger generation of farmers of Macon county who are making good headway in their chosen calling in Henry L. Hockaday, of Hickory Point township. He is a native of this county, born January 21, 1875, and is a son of Benjamin B. Hockaday, who was born in Ohio in 1832 and came to Illinois at twenty-three years of age, settling in Macon county. Here he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land for his father and later it was divided among the three children of the family. In 1888 he removed to Emory, Illinois, where he engaged in the grocery business. The mother of our subject, Sophia L. (Layman) Hockaday, was born in this state in 1848 and departed this life in 1877. In the family were six children, four of whom are now living: Charles, a resident of Decatur; Mollie, now Mrs. Parlier, of Macon county; Lillie, now Mrs. Malone, of Macon county; and Henry L.

The subject of this review was educated in the public schools and reared upon the home farm, continuing there until he was nineteen years of age, when he began life on his own account, conducting independent operations upon his father's farm for one year, at the end of which time, in 1895, he took up his residence on a farm in Hickory Point township, where he has since lived.

In 1898 Mr. Hockaday was united in marriage to Miss Gertie Parlier, a daughter of Allen and Alice (Wicks) Parlier, natives of Perry county, Illinois, who removed to Macon county and here became identified with farming interests. Mrs. Parlier was called from earthly scenes in 1904. She was the mother of a family of six children: Gertie, now Mrs. Hockaday; and William, Ernest, George, Grace and Fred, all of Peoria, Illinois. One child has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hockaday, Ruth P., who is now eleven years of age.

Mr. Hockaday is identified with the republican party, but represents an element of the party that is not confined to traditions but is able to see good points even in a candidate of the opposition. He votes with his party on national issues but reserves his decision at local elections, sometimes favoring a candidate irrespective of his party affiliation. As a progressive young man Mr. Hockaday seeks to be guided by the best light available not only in politics but in farming and in all other affairs with which he is connected. It is safe to prophesy that he will attain added success in his chosen calling as the years pass.

ANDREW J. KAISER.

Among the successful commercial enterprises of Decatur is that owned and conducted by Andrew J. Kaiser—an excellent fruit, produce, flour and feed business, which is carried on at Nos. 151-157 Thatcher place. He early realized the fact that "there is no excellence without labor" and also that in business, as in other relations of life, "honesty is the best policy." Close application and unfaltering energy, therefore, have constituted important features in his progress since he entered the mercantile field. He was born in Buffalo, New York, Setpember 24, 1867, a son of Andrew and Margaret (Luley) Kaiser, both of whom were natives of Hesse Darmstadt, Germany, the former born in 1830 and the latter in 1833. They came to America before their marriage, the father settling in Buffalo in 1851. The following year he wedded Margaret Luley and in order to provide for his family, worked at the brick mason's trade, which he followed for twenty years. Later he conducted a grocery business and was quite successful in that undertaking. He died in 1875 and his wife, long surviving him, passed away in April, 1909, both having continued residents of Buffalo to the time of their demise. A son of the family is still living in Buffalo and a daughter, Mrs. Margaret Andrews, is a resident of St. Paul, Minnesota.

Andrew J. Kaiser, who was the other member of his father's household, pursued his education in the public schools of Buffalo to the age of ten years and then began working to assist his mother, following the death of the husband and father. He was employed in connection with the packing business of Jacob Dold & Sons, entering the slaughtering house, but worked his way upward through various positions until he became city salesman. He remained with that firm for six years, at the end of which time he went to St. Paul, Minnesota, as representative for the firm of Luley & Son, beef and pork packers. There he continued for a year, after which he was employed by Armour & Company as their representative, at St. Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth, Minnesota.

He filled that position for seven and a half years and was then transferred by the house to take charge of their Chicago market. Subsequently he became identified with Morris & Company and was located at Pittsburg, at Indianapolis and at Decatur successively. In 1894 he came to this city and established a wholesale fruit, produce, flour and feed business, which has proven a profitable undertaking from the start. He is now accorded an extensive patronage and each year indicates larger sales and more substantial profits.

On the 4th of October, 1893, Mr. Kaiser was united in marriage to Miss Clara A. Noltimier, of St. Paul, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gustav Noltimier, who were farming people and early settlers of Cottage Grove, Minnesota. They came form Germany in 1860 and the father has now lived retired for thirty years. Mrs. Kaiser has five brothers and two sisters and the family circle yet remains unbroken by the hand of death. Mr. and Mrs. Kaiser occupy a comfortable home at No. 1146 North Water street and in addition to this property he is the owner of considerable other realty in Decatur.

Mr. Kaiser is indeed a self-made man. Starting out in life at the age of ten years, deprived of many of the advantages and opportunities which most boys enjoy, he has worked his way steadily upward undeterred by the difficulties and obstacles which he has confronted and, as the years have passed, by his industry and determination has triumphed over all that has barred his path to success and he is now numbered among the well-to-do merchants of Decatur. Moreover, his business methods are such as will always bear close investigation and scrutiny and he, therefore, enjoys an honored name among colleagues and contemporaries.

L. W. BENSON.

Well known, not only by reason of the success which he has attained in agricultural circles but also by reason of the prominent place which he has taken in the public life of the community in which he resides, L. W. Benson is numbered among the prominent and influential citizens of Harristown township, with the interests of which he has been closely identified for more than two decades. One of Illinois' native sons, he was born on a farm near Chestnut, Logan county, March 29, 1861, his parents being Dr. C. H. and Elizabeth (Patten) Benson. The father was born in Thornhall, England, where he was reared to manhood, after which he came to America and located for a time in Illinois. While in this state he engaged in Tract Society work and also studied medicine, in the practice of which he was engaged for a number of years. He was a soldier of the Civil war, laying down all personal interests to aid his country in her hour of need. He was united in marriage in Nashville, Tennessee, to Miss Elizabeth Patten, who was born and reared in that city.

L. W. Benson was reared upon a farm until twelve years of age, when he removed with his parents to Latham, Illinois, and there grew to manhood. In the common schools he acquired a fair education and remained at home for a time after laying aside his text-books. He was still in his teens, however, when

he started out in business on his own account, his initial step being taken as a farm hand, since which time he has continued to devote his time and energies to agricultural pursuits. On the 9th of April, 1882, he was united in marriage at Latham, Illinois, to Miss Alice A. Joynt, who was born on a farm in Logan county, near Latham, and is a daughter of E. A. and Clarissa Sophia (Aldridge) Joynt.

Mr. Joynt, the father of Mrs. Benson, was born in London, England, April 4, 1833, a son of Evans D. and Mary Ann (Killick) Joynt. When about eleven or twelve years of age he went to sea and was thus engaged for almost four years, when he ran away from the service at New Orleans, making his way up the Mississippi river to St. Louis and thence to Alton, and later made his way to Jersey county, Illinois, where he worked as a farm hand at a salary of five dollars per month. He was thus engaged until twenty-two years of age, but during the intervening years had visited his old home in London three times and had the unusual record of having crossed the Atlantic ocean twenty-one times by the time he was twenty-two years old. On his last trip to his native country he was united in marriage to Miss Clarissa Sophia Aldridge, with whom he had been acquainted since childhood and who had been reared by an aunt of his. Immediately after his marriage he went to Logan county and there, in connection with a brother, operated the Powell farm for a couple of years. He then made arrangements with the Illinois Central Railroad Company to purchase eighty acres of their land in Logan county at a price of ten dollars per acre, but he suffered such heavy losses, however, through his horses dying, that he asked the company to take back forty acres of the property. Even after their assurance that they would be lenient concerning his payments he nevertheless felt that he would rather have forty acres clear, and so prevailed upon them to take back forty acres. Success attended his later efforts, however, and he subsequently purchased another tract of forty acres, paying fifty dollars per acre therefor, and on that site the village of Latham was laid out in 1872. The tract was subdivided into town lots and after giving the villlage the right of way for roads, etc., and every other lot, he had the benefit of selling the remaining lots, from which he realized a most substantial sum. He is yet the owner of about fifty-five acres of valuable land, and is considered one of the prominent and substantial citizens of Latham. As the years passed he and his wife became the parents of seven children, two of whom died in infancy. The eldest, John James, died in 1909, leaving a family of five children. Stephen and Clara, the next in order of birth, were twins. The former married Carrie Herod and makes his home in Harristown township, and Clara became the wife of William Brown and resides at Moweaqua. Alice married L. W. Benson, of this review, and Fred, who married Rinda Plumber, has three sons and makes his home in Decatur. Mr. Joynt has ever been a stalwart rejublican, has served as road commissioner and as alderman of Latham,and does all in his power to further the development and up-building of the village with whose interests he had been closely associated since its beginning.

After his marriage L. W. Benson, whose name introduces this review, located upon a farm a mile northeast of Latham, which he operated for six years, and then, in the spring of 1888, removed to his present home, consisting of three

hundred and twenty acres on section 11, Harristown township, known as the F. M. Hostetter farm, which he has since worked in the capacity of renter. In the conduct of his agricultural pursuits Mr. Penson has employed up-to-date methods, has used the most modern machinery to facilitate farm labor and has kept abreast of the progress which is being made in agricultural lines quite as much as in other branches of business activity. With him laudable ambition has constituted a stimulus for far-reaching effort, and, placing his dependence upon the safe and substantial qualities of energy and wise management, he has steadily worked his way up to the position which he now occupies among the progressive and prosperous agriculturists of Harristown township.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Benson was blessed with three children: Charles Elmer, who died at the age of fourteen years; Lela May, who has acquired a good common school education; and Vera Viola, who is yet attending school. Although Mr. Benson has been progressive and successful in business, he has also been a potent factor in the public life of the community in which he resides. Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise he has voted with the republican party, casting his first presidential ballot for James G. Blaine in 1889. He was tax collector for two years and has also served as school trustee for several years. In 1905 he was elected to the office of supervisor and in 1907 was reelected to that office, notwithstanding the fact that his is a strong democratic township—a fact which indicates something of his popularity among his fellow citizens. In connection with his public office he has served on various committees and last year was a member of the fee and salary committee. In his fraternal relations Mr. Benson holds membership with the Knights of Pythis lodge at Niantic, and also with the Modern Woodmen at Harristown, and has served as banker of the latter body for a number of years.

Such in brief is the life record of one who has for more than two decades been closely identified with the agricultural interests of Harristown township and whose efforts at the same time have been potent factors in promoting the general welfare in many ways. He has won a high place in the estimation of his fellowmen not only because of the gratifying success which he has attained in agricultural lines but also by reason of his broad public spirit, his loyalty in all matters of citizenship and his many sterling traits of character.

ANDREW JACKSON CONOVER.

The agricultural interests of Macon county find a worthy and successful representative in Andrew Jackson Conover, who resides on a tract of two hundred acres on sections 5 and 8, Decatur township, one hundred and fifty-two acres of which belongs to him and his wife. His birth occurred in this county on the 22d of December, 1864, his parents being Albert and Adela (Gouge) Conover. The maternal grandparents, William and Parthenia (Martin) Gouge, were natives of Pennsylvania and Kentucky respectively and were probably of English ancestry. Albert Conover, the father of our subject, came of Holland lineage and was the ninth in order of birth in a family of thirteen children, his

natal day being February 13, 1840, and the place of his birth Cass county, Illinois. He obtained his early education in the public schools of Macon county and later devoted his leisure hours to study, becoming one of the best mathematicians in the county. In 1862 he enlisted for three years' service in the Union army as a member of Company D, Fortieth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, being mustered out at Davenport, Iowa, on the 7th of July, 1865. He continued in the field for about a year and was then transferred to hospital service at Paducah, Kentucky, where he acted as steward during the remainder of his term of enlistment. On the 1st of January, 1860, he had wedded Miss Adela Gouge, who was the fourth child in a family of thirteen and who was born in this county on the 24th of September, 1842. When the Civil war was ended Albert Conover returned to Macon county, purchasing and locating upon a farm of eighty acres near Elwin, to the operation of which he gave his attention for about two years. On the expiration of that period he removed to Cass county, Missouri, where he engaged in the flour milling business, erecting the first mill in the county. Five years later the structure was destroyed by fire and as there was no insurance on the property, Mr. Conover was left practically penniless. His loss was all the more deplorable by reason of the fact that a few days previous to the fire he had refused an offer of five hundred acres of land for his interest in the mill. In order to earn a livelihood he began teaching, following that profession in Missouri for two terms and then once more returning to Macon county, Illinois. During the last two years of his life he was engaged in the grain business at Bearsdale and there passed away on the 12th of December, 1890. Unto him and his wife were born nine children, the record of whom is as follows: Amanda, whose natal day was September 4, 1860, gave her hand in marriage to H. N. Lehew, of Bearsdale, and was called to her final rest on the 14th of June, 1907. Anna M., whose birth occurred March 8, 1862, makes her home in Decatur and is the wife of John Boland, by whom she has three children. Andrew Jackson, of this review, is the next in order of birth. Hattie D., who was born on the 21st of November, 1867, is the wife of E. P. Husted and resides in Guymon, Oklahoma. Charles, whose birth occurred March 11, 1870, died in infancy. Lillie, born March 12, 1871, became the wife of F. A. Eyman, of Harristown, Macon county, and now lives in Joliet, Illinois. She is the mother of seven children. Mattie, whose natal day was September 12, 1873, gave her hand in marriage to W. T. Brown, of Peoria, by whom she has four children. The family reside at Guymon, Oklahoma. Dollie L., who was born February 28, 1876, died on the 6th of October, 1878. Fayetta, whose birth occurred December 29, 1880, wedded M. G. Musser, of Peoria, by whom she has one child. Their home is now in Los Angeles, California.

Andrew J. Conover, whose name introduces this review, acquired his education in the common schools of Macon county and after putting aside his textbooks lived on a farm with his grandfather until he had attained his majority. He then clerked in the store and grain office of his uncle at Harristown for one year, spent a similar period in California and subsequently worked at different places in Iowa until twenty-eight years of age, being principally engaged in the grain business. He was married in 1893 and during the following three years was employed by the Shellebarger Mill & Elevator Company. Subsequently he

was engaged in the grain business in association with William Richey of Warrensburg for ten years, on the expiration of which period he took up his abode on his present place of two hundred acres in Decatur township, where he has carried on general farming and stock-raising continuously since. Alert, energetic and enterprising, he has won a gratifying measure of prosperity in the conduct of his agricultural interests and is widely recognized as a substantial and respected citizen of his native county. In addition to his home property he and his wife own a tract of one hundred and six acres on sections 7 and 18, Decatur township.

On the 28th of June, 1893, Mr. Conover was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Etta Troutman, a daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Bear) Troutman, of this county. She was born on the 2d of October, 1868, and was the second in order of birth in a family of three children, the others being as follows: Ella, whose birth occurred in October, 1867, and who died in infancy; and Frank S., whose natal day was January 26, 1873, and who wedded Elizabeth Barner, of Belle Plaine, Kansas. They now reside at Bearsdale, Macon county, and their children, are three in number. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Conover were born two children, namely: Frank T., whose natal day was April 22, 1894, and who passed away on the 11th of the following July; and Albert T., whose birth occurred October 21, 1897.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Conover has supported the men and measures of the democracy, believing firmly in the principles of that party. At the present time he is serving as highway commissioner of Decatur township. Fraternally he is identfied with the Masons, belonging to Macon Lodge, No. 8, A. F. & A. M., of Decatur, Illinois, and also to the chapter. He is likewise a member of Bearsdale Camp, No. 1597, M. W. A. Both Mr. and Mrs. Conover belong to the First Methodist church of Decatur and exemplify its teachings in their daily lives. They occupy a prominent position in social circles, and their home is the abode of a warm-hearted and generous hospitality which is greatly enjoyed by their many friends.

ERNEST H. LUNN.

An extensive and profitable business is now carried on by Ernest H. Lunn, well known in connection with the building operations of Decatur as a contractor in brick and stone. He was born in Swasey, Nottinghamshire, England, March 22, 1867, a son of Henry and Emma (Dodson) Lunn. The father, whose birth occurred in 1837, died in Decatur in 1904 and the mother is still living here. He followed contracting throughout his entire life and in this way became closely associated with building operations in Decatur, to which city he came with his family in the year 1870. He was recognized as one of the foremost contractors of Macon county, having erected many buildings and fine brick residences here. Moreover, he was a public-spirited citizen and a devout Christian man who held membership in the Methodist church and often acted as local minister. He spoke words of wisdom and comfort and inspiration in the church services,

visited the sick and needy throughout the city and was very charitable, sharing his success with those less fortunate and extending a helping hand to all who needed material aid. He conducted many funeral services for members of the church and on such occasions spoke with great tact and kindliness to the bereaved, his words frequently proving a comfort to sorrowing hearts. He left his impress for good upon the lives of all with whom he came in contact and his memory remains as a blessed benediction to many who knew him.

Ernest H. Lunn was but three years of age when brought by his parents to the United States, and in the city schools of Decatur he pursued his education to the age of fourteen years, when he began learning the bricklayers' trade, serving a four years' apprenticeship. Soon afterward he started in business for himself as a contractor in brick and stone work and from the beginning he has been successful. In 1902 he took in a partner, but after five years the partnership was dissolved and he afterward conducted the business alone until recently, when his brother became associated with him. The importance and excellence of his work are indicated in the Central block, the Millikin Children's and Orphan's Home and many other buildings. He has erected many of the best brick and stone residences in the city and ranks with the leading contractors of central Illinois, his work being not only attractive in style of architecture but also in finish, design, workmanship and durability.

On the 8th of September, 1892, Mr. Lunn was married to Miss Caroline Blenz, of Decatur, a daughter of Adam Blenz, a native of Germany who was one of the early settlers of St. Louis and afterward became a pioneer butcher of Decatur, owning one of the first slaughter houses here. He was very successful and the family were prominent, being widely known to all the early citizens. He was also the owner of a famous running horse—Butcher Boy.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Lunn have been born four children: George, who has born September 3, 1893, and is learning the business with his father; Edgar, a high school student; Donald; and Vera Belle. Mr. Lunn belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp and gives his political support to the republican party, while in his religious faith he is a Methodist. An analyzation of his life work shows that diligence and determination have been the salient points in his career and upon the foundation of industry and perseverance he has builded his success.

MOSES E. BATCHELDER.

An excellent farm of three hundred acres pays tribute to Moses E. Batchelder, who has won a creditable position among the representative agriculturists of Illini township. The place is situated about five and one half miles northwest of Harristown and judicious cultivation has made this a valuable and productive tract. He has now passed the eighty-seventh milestone on life's journey, his birth having occurred in New Hampshire on the 12th of July, 1823. He is a son of Moses Batchelder, Sr., who was born in the year 1782 and died in 1861, and a grandson of David Batchelder. His grandmother had three brothers in the Revolutionary war, all enlisting from Massachusetts and doing valiant service in the attainment of American liberty.

MR. AND MRS. M. E. BATCHELDER

Moses E. Batchelder arrived in Macon county in the fall of 1864 and here invested in land. He had been educated in the east and his thorough home training well qualified him for the practical and responsible duties that devolved upon him following his removal to the west. He had been engaged in the lumber business in the east but after coming to Illinois took up farming and stock-raising and has been quite successful in this department of labor. He is today the owner of three hundred acres about four miles north of Harristown. The land is arable, responding readily to the care and labor which he bestows upon it, and his careful cultivation of the fields results in the production of large crops, for which he finds a ready sale on the market.

In 1852 Mr. Batchelder was married to Miss Sarah Batchelder, a daughter of Nathaniel and Annie (Janice) Batchelder, of New Hampshire. They became the parents of five children. The eldest, Fred, married Elizabeth Jones, who died leaving three children, one of whom is married and has a child—the great-grandchild of Moses E. Batchelder. Nathaniel C. and Frank reside at home. Ed married Molly Lloyd, and lives at the homestead. Clarence completes the family. The three sons living at home now have the management of the farm. Mrs. Batchelder died on the 31st of August, 1910, at the age of eighty-eight years and was buried in Illini cemetery. Through his carefully conducted business affairs Mr. Batchelder always provided a comfortable living for his wife and children. In the management and operation of the farm his judgment has been sound, his methods practical and the results desirable. He has not allowed business cares to exclude his active participation in other interests, however, for he has served as a trustee of his township and as a member of the school board, while with the Congregational church he holds membership and conforms his life to its teachings.

WILLIAM D. MOMA.

That the life of William D. Moma has been an active one, characterized by unfaltering industry and unremitting energy, is indicated by the fact that he is now living retired, enjoying a goodly competence which has come to him as the logical result of earnest labor and intelligently directed effort. He was born in Ross county, Ohio, on the 30th of September, 1846, a son of John H. and Mary (Benner) Moma. His grandparents on the paternal side came from Germany at an early day, locating in Rockbridge county, Virginia, and in the Old Dominion John H. Moma, the father our of subject, was born. Later he went to Ohio, where he was married to Miss Mary Benner, a native of that state, who was also of German ancestry, and continued a resident of that state until March, 1859, when he came to Illinois, taking up his abode in Ford county. A tanner by trade, he followed that pursuit for a number of years in Ohio, his efforts in that direction making him one of the well-to-do business men of the community in which he made his home. Later, however, he met with financial reverses and upon his arrival in Ford county, where he subsequently took up his abode, his possessions consisted of but thirty dollars. Two years later he removed to Piatt county

where he engaged in farming, and his labors in that field were so successful that he partially retrieved his lost fortune. He passed away in that county from the effects of a paralytic stroke, his death occurring August 4, 1885, at the age of eight-seven years. He had survived his wife for a number of years, her demise occuring on the 11th of August, 1859, when she had reached her fifty-sixth year. In their family were two sons and two daughters, but our subject is the only one now living. His brother, Hugh Milton, was a soldier of the Civil war. He enlisted as a member of the Seventy-second Board of Trade Regiment from Chicago, and met death through exposure after four months' service.

William D. Moma acquired his education in the district schools of Ohio and Illinois, which he attended during the winter months, the summer seasons being devoted to the cultivation of the home farm. He early became familiar with the tasks that fall to the lot of the country lad, and thus it was that, when called upon to lay aside his text-books at the age of fourteen years and take charge of his father's farm of eighty acres in Piatt county, he was thoroughly equipped by preliminary training to undertake the responsibilities thus devolving upon him, and for a number of years he operated the old homested in a most satisfactory and profitable manner, making it his place of residence until 1891. In that year he came to Macon county, purchasing a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Mount Zion township, to the improvement and cultivation of which he at once turned his attention. Later he added another tract of one hundred and sixty-nine acres, making a total of three hundred and twenty-nine acres of fine land, two hundred and forty acres of which are located on section 18, Mount Zion township. This in time became one of the valuable properties of the township, for, recognizing the value of progress as an essential factor in a successful farming enterprise, Mr. Moma instituted many improvements upon his place, where were found all of the modern conveniences and accessories to facilitate farm labor. His fields were brought under an excellent state of cultivation and in connection with general farming he engaged in stock-raising, making a specialty of raising and fattening hogs for the market. He became thoroughly acquainted with every phase of agriculture and thus his efforts counted as resultant forces in the conduct of business enterprises, the success of which proved at once gratifying and substantial. In the fall of 1910, feeling that his competency would permit such a step, he retired from active life to take up his abode at Decatur, where he is the owner of some valuable property.

It was on the 26th of March, 1867, that Mr. Moma was united in marriage to Miss Katherine Peoples, who was born in Ohio and at the time of her marriage was residing near Columbus with her parents, who were also natives of that state. Of the seven children born unto Mr. and Mrs. Moma the eldest, Charles F., died in childhood, while two others, a son and daughter, passed away in infancy. The surviving members of the family are: John A., successfully carrying on farming; Fanny; Stella, of Emporia, Kansas; and Burt H., engaged in the cultivation of rice in Arkansas. In 1886, Mrs. Moma passed away and in the following year Mr. Moma was again married, his second union being with Miss Sarah Coakley, of Piatt county, Illinois. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Coakley, were natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania respectively, who cast their lot

with the early settlers of Piatt county, where for many years they have successfully carried on farming.

The religious belief of Mr. Moma is indicated by his membership in the Presbyterian church, while fraternally he is connected with Ionic Lodge, No. 312, A. F. & A. M. In politics his views accord with the principles of the republican party, but the honors and emoluments of office have never held attraction for him, as he has preferred to concentrate his energies upon his private business interests. He is interested, however, as all true American citizens should be, in those projects which have a bearing upon the progress and improvement of the community, and he has ever been interested in the growth and development of his adopted country. His has been an active and useful life, in which he has been accorded due recognition of earnest effort and honest endeavor, and the rest which he now enjoys is well earned and truly merited.

J. WALTER HODGE.

J. Walter Hodge, a well known and prosperous agriculturist residing on section 4, Mount Zion township, was born in that township on the 10th of April, 1866, his parents being Henry D. M. and Elizabeth (Adams) Hodge. The paternal grandparents, Henry J. and Penelope (Traughber) Hodge, were natives of North Carolina and Tennessee respectively. They removed to Sangamon county, Illinois, in 1830 and the following year he took up their abode among the pioneer settlers of Macon county, locating on an unimproved tract of two hundred and sixty acres, part of which was timber and part prairie land. The grandfather passed away in 1838, when a young man of twenty-five years, being long survived by his wife, who was called to her final rest in 1884 at the age of sixty-six years.

Henry D. M. Hodge, the father of our subject, was the only child born unto his parents, his birth occurring in Mount Zion township, this county, on the 12th of November, 1837. On the 3d of November, 1859, he wedded Miss Elizabeth Adams, who was born in Cass county, Missouri, in 1841, her parents being Henry and Sarah Adams, natives of Kentucky. At the time of the outbreak of the Civil war Henry D. M. Hodge was compelled to return to Decatur, as his sympathies were with the Union and if he had remained in the south he would have been obliged to join the Confederate army. He considered himself fortunate in that he was able to escape with a mule team and a couple of pennies. After returning to the old home farm in Macon county he once more became identified with general agricultural pursuits here and tilled the soil sucessfully until 1887, since which time he has lived in honorable retirement at Decatur. He is widely and favorably known throughout the community, enjoying the warm regard and esteem of all with whom he has come in contact. His wife passed away in January, 1899. Two sons and one daughter yet survive.

J. Walter Hodge attended the public schools during the period of his boyhood and youth and also pursued a course of study in Brown's Commercial College. After putting aside his text-books he returned to his father's farm and

has resided thereon continuously since. He is the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of finely improved land and also manages his father's place of two hundred and sixty acres. His labors as an agriculturist have been attended with a gratifying measure of success and he has long been numbered among the substantial and representative citizens of the community. During the past season his wheat yielded thirty-three bushels an acre and he sold it for one dollar per bushel.

On the 22d of March, 1889, Mr. Hodge was united in marriage to Miss Hattie Meisenhelter, of Decatur, her parents being Aaron and Angeline (Motter) Meisenhelter, natives of York county, Pennsylvania. They took up their abode among the early settlers of this county, the father becoming well known in Decatur and acting as a police officer. He passed away in 1877, while his wife was called to her final rest ten years later. They were the parents of three daughters and two sons. Our subject and his wife have the following children. Irene Gertrude, Lucile, Orlan Ray, Beulah, George Walter and Charles Willis. Their first born, a son, died in infancy.

Mr. Hodge is a republican in politics and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, have called him to several positions of public trust. He served as commissioner of highways for one term, acted as justice of the peace for a similar period and has been school director for fifteen years. Fraternally he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America, while his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the United Brethren church. Having resided in Macon county from his birth to the present time, he has a wide acquaintance here and the many sterling traits of character which he has displayed have gained for him an enviable place in public regard. The Hodge family has been continuously identified with the agricultural interests of this county for eight decades, and he whose name introduces this review is now carrying on the work begun by his grandfather and continued by his father.

JOSEPHUS VEST.

An honorable retirement in which to enjoy the fruits of former toil is the fitting crown of long years of earnest, indefatigable labor. Such has been vouchsafed to Mr. Vest, who for a considerable period was numbered among the leading contractors of Decatur but has now put aside business cares to enjoy a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves. He was born March 23, 1843, in Chillicothe, Ross county, Ohio, his parents being Henry and Elizabeth (Palmer) Vest. They were natives of Virginia but in early life removed to Ohio, where the father conducted business as a contractor and farmer. He was of Scotch and French ancestry and was born in 1811, his life record covering the intervening years to 1884. His wife, who was born in 1810, passed away in 1877. The family came to Decatur in 1851 and the father here engaged in hauling merchandise by wagon from Springfield to Decatur. He also constructed a mile and a half of Illinois Central Railroad near the old depot and always worked with determination to support his family.

Josephus Vest is entirely a self-educated as well as a self-made man, for he had the opportunity of attending school but three weeks. However, in the school of experience he has learned many valuable lessons and day by day has picked up knowledge which has made him not only a practical business man but one of wide and liberal views upon important questions of the day. In the spring of 1853 the family drove overland from Decatur to Texas, with the intention of making that state their home, but found it a most uncivilized country in which the work of improvement and progress seemed scarcely begun, and after a short stay they returned to Decatur. The trip was a perilous and dangerous one. They were often compelled to stop and make a road before they could drive on and had to make roads so they could cross streams and creeks. In the Indian territory Mr. Vest noticed that the Indian chief owned black slaves and some of the negroes were engaged to ferry the party across the river. In Texas the ranchers largely lived in houses made of four posts, which were driven into the ground and covered with a straw roof. The Vest family had the misfortune to lose their horses, which died, so that they were obliged to return with oxen. In 1857 they drove across the country with ox-teams to Pike's Peak, Colorado, purchasing supplies and outfitting at Kansas city and proceeding thence to their destination. On their arrival at Kansas City they found five hundred drivers in camp, moving for Mexico. The Vest party took six months' supplies, as the father intended to mine gold. When they drove south through the Indian territory they disposed of their merchandise and thence returned to Decatur. Subsequently the family removed to Independence, Kansas, with the intention of staying there but only remained for four months and again returned to Decatur, at which time Mr. Vest established a contracting and building business. In this he was successful, being closely identfied with building operations until about three years ago, when he retired. His close application and indefatigable energy constituted the salient features in his gratifying success. As the years passed on he made for himself a place among the leading contractors of the city and at length accumulated the handsome competence that now enables him to live retired.

In the spring of 1862 Mr. Vest enlisted in the Illinois guard for three months to guard Confederate prisoners. After a month's service Captain King, of Company A, son-in-law of Governor Yates, reorganized the two companies on guard duty into one. At the close of his first term Mr. Vest reenlisted in the Sixty-eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry and served during the Potomac river campaign. He was then mustered out at Springfield and returned to Decatur to again engage in business.

On the 4th of September, 1864, occurred the marriage of Mr. Vest and Miss Hannah Gethard, of Decatur, a daughter of Richard and Phoebe (Corson) Gethard, who were natives of Cincinnati, Ohio, and became early settlers of Sangamon county, Illinois, where they followed farming. Six children have been born unto Mr. and Mrs. Vest: Arthur O., who died in infancy; William, who was born April 11, 1868; Charles, who was born October 8, 1870; Frank, who was born in August 8, 1873; Ella, the wife of W. Shelley, of Springfield, Illinois; and Gertrude, the wife of O. M. Rose, a resident of Decatur.

In his political views Mr. Vest has long been a stalwart advocate of republican principles and his religious faith is that of the Universalist church. He also belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic and thus maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades. In all matters of citizenship he is as true and loyal to his country today as when he followed the old flag upon the battlefields of the south. Fidelity to duty has ever been one of his marked characteristics and has given him place among the substantial and worthy citizens of Decatur.

ALLEN W. BRODESS.

Allen W. Brodess is now living retired, for he has more than passed the Psalmist's span of life of three score years and ten. He was formerly associated with the grocery business but in 1908 put aside active commercial cares to enjoy a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves. He was born in Chillicothe, Ross county, Ohio, December 27, 1835, a son of Josiah and Elizabeth (Bishop) Brodess, both of whom were natives of the Buckeye state. The father, who was born October 17, 1810, died in 1885 and the mother, whose birth occurred in 1813, passed away in 1880. The grandparents of Mr. Brodess were natives of Virginia, whence they removed to Ohio.

Allen W. Brodess pursued his education in the public schools and afterward entered business life in connection with merchandising. He became traveling salesman for a wholesale and retail dry goods and grocery house and on removing to Illinois established his home in Christian county, where he remained until the 15th of April, 1875, when he removed to Decatur. Here he has since made his home, covering a period of more than thirty-five years. He established a retail grocery business in this city and successfully conducted it for about a third of a century, when he sold out and retired. He had long since won recognition as a well known and prominent citizen here. In the conduct of his store he proved energetic and discriminating, his sound judgment and close application to business constituting the basis of his success.

On the 6th of May, 1856, Mr. Brodess was married to Miss Elizabeth H. McKenzie, a native of Ross county, Ohio, where their marriage was celebrated. Her parents were Daniel and Anna (Sadler) McKenzie. Her father followed both merchandising and farming until his life's labors were terminated by death in 1850. His wife survived him for only a brief period, passing away in 1851. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Brodess are: Althea M., the wife of George Christopher, owner of a rice plantation at Jennings, Louisiana; and Clinton M., who was born November 25, 1861, and is a successful and progressive merchant of of Decatur. Mrs. Brodess is very proud of her grandson, the Rev. Arthur A. Heinlein, the son of her daughter by her first marriage. Mrs. Brodess reared this grandson until he studied for the ministry. He is now an ordained preacher of the Methodist church and is doing excellent work in his chosen field. He was born September 21, 1881, and is a graduate of the Wesleyan college at Bloomington, Illinois, and of the Garrett Theological College at Evanston. He was

married in May, 1910, to Miss Jess Lee Fisher, of Atwood, Illinois, a young lady of ability who will undoubtedly prove of much assistance to him in his work.

At the time of the Civil war Mr. Brodess' sympathies were all with the Union cause and in 1864 he enlisted in the Seventy-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Later he was transferred to the Forty-fourth Illinois Regiment, with which he was mustered out at Springfield in 1865. While a resident of Christian county he held the office of justice of the peace and his decisions were strictly fair and impartial, winning him golden opinions from all sorts of people. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity and gives his political allegiance to the republican party. His life has been actuated by high and honorable principles, in keeping with his professions as a member of the Methodist church, to which he has belonged since 1855.

There has never been a death in the Brodess family. Both Mr. and Mrs. Brodess are members of the Old Settlers' Association and are among the most higly esteemed people of the county. In their old Ohio home they attended the same school and were friends from childhood. Mrs. Brodess met with a severe accident about two years ago, being injured by a street car which started up suddenly. Her left limb was fractured and she is now compelled to walk with crutches. She is, however, of a happy disposition and bears this misfortune without complaining. Mr. Brodess drove from Ohio to Illinois in a covered wagon. It required sixteen days to make the trip in that manner and there were no railroads at the time. From pioneer days he has been identified with the development and progress of this part of the state and has borne his share in the work of development and upbuilding.

WILLIAM F. TIMMONS.

William F. Timmons, one of the prosperous young farmers of Macon county, living on section 26, South Macon township, has been engaged in farming in this county for four years and in that time has demonstrated his ability to maintain a high standing as an agriculturist and stock-raiser. He is a native of the Buckeye state and was born in Pickaway county, March 21, 1880. He is a son of William Scott and Kathryn Timmons, both of whom were born in Ohio. The family came to Illinois in February, 1886, and settled in Douglas county, but later moved to Piatt county, where the father and mother are now living upon a farm.

The subject of this review is the second of five children born to Mr. and Mrs. Timmons. He was educated in the common schools and continued upon his father's farm until he was twenty-two years of age. He then began to learn telegraphy, starting in November, 1902, and in one year from that time he was employed in the telegraph department of the Big Four Railroad, later going to the Chicago & Eastern Illinois road, where he remained a short time, then returning to the Peoria division of the Big Four Railroad and finally becoming identfied with the Illinois Central, where he

continued until 1906. He was faithful and efficient in his work and prompt in the discharge of his duties, receiving the commendation of officers higher in rank in the the telegraph department.

On January 26, 1905, Mr. Timmons took unto himself a life companion, the lady of his choice being Miss Leta Giles, a daughter of Sard and Margaret (Davis) Giles, a record of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Mrs. Timmons was born in this state, Feburary 11, 1887. In 1906, Mr. Timmons began farming one and one-half miles south of Decatur, but in the spring of 1907 moved to the home which he now occupies and which is owned by his father-in-law, and here he is well established in his vocation as a farmer. Mr. Timmons is socially identified with Deland Lodge, No. 740, I. O. O. F.; Beacon Lodge, No. 434, K. P., both of Decatur; and is also a member of the Order of Railway Telegraphers. Since arriving at maturity he has been an adherent of the republican party, believing that the best interests of the entire country are subserved by the party of protection. As a patriotic citizen Mr. Timmons assists all enterprises that give evidence of advancing the public good and thus adding to the general prosperity. His home is always open to friends and here they may expect a cordial greeting, as it is doubtful whether a more hospitable home is to be found in Macon county than that which is presided over by Mr. and Mrs. Timmons.

J. EDWARD BERING.

The horoscope of time has told off eighty-one years since J. Edward Bering started upon life's journey. It is a period in which remarkable changes have occurred—in which labor, invention and science have wrought marvelous results, completely revolutionizing the methods of living and trade. Mr. Bering has been active in the work of general development, his labors counting for much where progress has conserved the best interests of various communities. He has been a pioneer in the development of the oil fields of Pennsylvania and the coal fields of Illinois, and later became closely associated with the manufacturing interests of Decatur.

He was born in Doylestown, Bucks county, Pennsylvania, January 12, 1829, while his parents, James and Unity C. (White) Bering, were natives of South Carolina and Pennsylvania, respectively. On the 29th of May, 1823, the father sailed from Charleston to Philadelphia, reaching the latter city on the 5th of June. On the 30th of April, 1824, he became a first lieutenant in a regiment of Pennsylvania militia. On the 26th of January, 1826, in Philadelphia, he was united in marriage to Miss Unity C. White and they began their domestic life in Bucks county. They removed from Doylestown to Philadelphia, when their son Edward was but three or four years of age, making their home on Eighth street, between Market and Chestnut streets, and afterward on Ninth, east of Market. The father there engaged in the hosiery business for many years, when the substantial success which he had achieved permitted him to retire and spend his remaining days in the enjoyment of the rest which he had truly earned and richly merited. He died at Haddington, Pennsylvania, October 17, 1864,

J. Edw. Bering.

and his grave was made in the Radnor churchyard. Their children were: Mary Levina, the deceased wife of Lowber Burrows; James Edward; and Ida, who died at the age of fourteen months, September 11, 1898.

James Edward Bering acquired his early education under the instruction of a private teacher in Philadelphia and afterward attended a grammar school and later the high school, from which he was graduated on the completion of the regular course. On the 6th of March, 1848, he left Philadelphia for the town of Summit, in the Allegheny mountains to join an engineering corps under George W. Leuffer, and located the famous Horseshoe Bend on the Pennsylvania Railroad, superintending the construction of the road around this notable curve, which has been regarded as one of the most remarkable pieces of railroad engineering accomplished in the east. He has been connected with civil engineering on a great number of railroads, including the Pennsylvania, Sunbury & Erie, Bald Eagle Valley, Allegheny Valley, Pekin, Lincoln & Decatur and many others, but retiring from that field of labor, turned his attention to manufacturing interests. On the 1st of December, 1876, a company was formed under the firm name of Chambers, Bering & Quinlan, which firm still continues business. They were the first manufacturers of check rowers in the United States, but they did not confine their operations to that one line, extending the scope of their business to include hay loaders, rakes, etc. This is today one of the leading productive industries of Decatur, their constantly developing business having reached extensive proportions.

Various enterprises and activities have from time to time claimed the attention of Mr. Bering, and his work on the whole has been of large benefit to the city as well as a source of revenue to himself. On the 2d of January, 1861, he began boring for oil and organized the Mullengar Oil & Lumber Company, at Mullengar, Pennsylvania. When doing survey work for the Sunbury & Erie Railroad he noticed the pits on Mullengar creek where the Indians gathered oil and leased the property two or three days after Drake struck gas, and had the fire that disposed of his derrick. That was the beginning of the big oil excitement, and Mr. Bering was the organizer of the first company formed for developing the oil industry. Leaving the Sunbury Railroad, he took up his abode in the shanty on the property, and was a prominent factor in the oil region of Pennsylvania, while the field was being largely worked. In 1863 he was drafted for service in the army at Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and paid the three hundred dollars exemption fee, for he felt that his business interests demanded his personal attention. In 1876 he began boring for coal in Decatur, being fully convinced that the fuel was to be found underlying his line, and on the 12th of January, struck a three and a half foot vein at a depth of six hundred and ten feet, which was the first discovery of coal in this section. As the pioneer in this undertaking, his labors have not only greatly benefited himself, but have been of far-reaching benefit to others, owing to the further development of the coal lands in this vicinity.

On the 1st of October, 1856, Mr. Bering was united in marriage in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, to Miss Mary Elizabeth Morrison, and they have three children: Ida Isabelle, who has now passed away; Wilson Morrison, general manager of the manufacturing business in which his father is financially in-

terested; and Alice Clementina, who was born January 6, 1872, and is the wife of F. L. Evans, of the Evans Elevator Company. Mr. Bering possesses several volumes of family genealogy containing photographs of all the different members of the family, which he has taken and reproduced himself, and the volumes are in his own handwriting. He has made a great study of photography, also mineralogy and chemistry, and his library contains evidence of his research along those lines.

All through his life he has combined scientific knowledge with practical experience, and the results have been most satisfactory, bringing him to a position in the business world where success has been achieved. His work has ever counted as a tangible result, and he is now numbered among Decatur's prosperous residents, enjoying in the evening of life the fruits of his former toil. His extensive business connections have made him widely known, and honor and respect are accorded him wherever he is known.

JOHN I. PASOLD.

When one visits a city or daily passes to and fro among its business houses and residents, there is little thought given to the immense amount of work done in its actual building or of the knowledge and skill that are required in the construction of its substantial structures. Pausing for a moment, however, one must realize that the successful contractor must possess a comprehensive knowledge of the scientific principles of building as well as broad practical experience in the actual work of construction of his work be pleasing and the results substantial and artistic. John I. Pasold as a stone contractor is numbered among those prominently connected with building operations in Decatur and monuments to his power and his enterprise are found in many of the leading structures of the city.

Mr. Pasold was born in Austria, July 28, 1853, and is a son of Christian and Margaret (Krumholz) Pasold, both of whom were natives of the same country. The father was a shoemaker by trade and followed that pursuit with success throughout his entire life. He died in 1868 at the age of forty-nine years, and his wife passed away in 1903, at the age of eighty-five years. In 1860 they had crossed the Atlantic, becoming residents of Joliet, Illinois, where their remaining days were spent.

John I. Pasold was at that time a little lad of seven years. He attended the public schools of that city and was also educated under private German tuition. When fourteen years of age he began learning the trade of marble and stonecutting, serving a three years' apprenticeship and afterward working as a journeyman for the firm of Zirkel & Brown, of Joliet, one of the leading and well established firms of that city. In 1878, however, he began business on his own account in Decatur, where he has since operated, and that he has been successful is indicated by the fact that his name is associated with many of the leading structures of the city as the building contractor. Among these are the Millikin University, Powers Grand Opera House, Orlando Powers building,

Roberts & Green block, Ullrich Bank building, Transfer station, Loeb Time block, Columbia block, Ullrich block, Mueller Manufacturing Company's buildings, the Anna B. Millikin Home, Cumberland Presbyterian church, English Lutheran church. New Decatur Hotel, W. H. Starr block, Illinois State Bank of Assumption, Illinois; the public school of Clinton, Illinois, and the Philo bank of Philo, Illinois. This list alone indicates the nature of his work and the extent of his reputation for he has been called to various points outside of Decatur where he has done excellent work as a stone contractor.

On the 27th of December, 1883, Mr. Pasold was married to Miss Augusta Long, of Decatur, a daughter of George and Elizabeth (May) Long, who were early settlers and well known citizens here. Mrs. Pasold has a brother George and two sisters living in Danville, Illinois. The father died in 1868 and the mother, long surviving him, passed away in 1902. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Pasold are: Lillian; Notie, a high school and normal school graduate; Clara M., a student of the Millikin University; John M., who was born in 1896; and Ruth, who completes the family. They also lost one son, who died at the age of two months. Musical talent is very pronounced among the members of the family.

Mr. Pasold is well known in Masonic circles, belonging to Ionic Lodge, No. 312, A. F. & A. M., Decatur Chapter, No. 21, R. A. M.; and Decatur Commandery No. 9, K. T. He is also associated with the Loyal Americans. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and his religous faith is manifest in his membership in the Presbyterian church. He has not only made himself a prominent place in business circles but is also the architect and builder of his own fortunes, in which connection he has done excellent work, his record proving, too, that success and honored name may be won simultaneously.

TIMOTHY S. CHILDS, D. D. S.

Dentistry may be said to be almost unique among other occupations, as it is at once a profession, a trade and a business. Such being the case, it follows that in order to attain the highest success in it one must be thoroughly conversant with the theory of the art, must be expert with the many tools and appliances incidental to the practice of modern dentistry and must possess business qualifications adequate to dealing with the financial side of the profession. In all of these particulars Dr. Childs is well qualified and therefore has attained prestige among the able representatives of dentistry in Decatur.

A native son of Macon county, he was born in Illini township in 1865, one of the eight children of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Childs. The father died in 1905 and the mother in 1909. He had been a lifelong farmer and owned a section of land in Illini township. His success enabled him to provide well for his children and his widow and at her death the part of the estate which she had inherited was divided among their sons and daughters. As his share Dr. Childs received eighty acres of choice land near Warrensburg. He was reared to farm life with the usual experiences that fall to the lot of the farm boy who does

the chores and aids in the work of early planting and plowing and in gathering harvests in the autumn. Good educational privileges, however, were accorded him. After attending the district schools he spent one year in the Wesleyan University, at Bloomington and was graduated from the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso. Subsequently he matriculated in the University of Michigan for professional training and was graduated from the dental department with the class of 1892, at which time he won his degree. Following his graduation he returned to Macon county and opened a dental parlor in Decatur, where in the intervening period of nineteen years he has built up an extensive practice. He has always kept in touch with the progress of the profession in the methods of practice and in the inventions which facilitate the work of the operating room. He belongs to the Macon County Dental Society and his close conformity to the strict ethics of the profession has won him the high regard of his fellow practitioners.

Dr. Childs was married in 1894 to Miss Carletta Hane and they have become parents of a daughter and three sons: Agnes, John, Russell and Robert. Dr. and Mrs. Childs have a wide acquaintance in Decatur and are favorably received into the best social circles of the city. He is also prominent in musical circles, having for a number of years been a member of the Goodman Band and historian of that organization. He has been the cornet soloist and is still identified with the band, his musical talents contributing in no small measure to the high reputation of the organization.

W. M. SHETTEL.

The experience of many years goes to prove that a young man who has been reared to work and is governed by the right principles has little excuse to offer in this country if he does not attain a fair degree of success in what he undertakes. Lack of ambition holds many a competent young man back, but not so with W. M. Shettel, who has from his earliest recollection been blessed with the laudable desire to accomplish something worthy of the name. The son of a blacksmith, he has from boyhood been closely identified with that trade and is now proprietor of a blacksmith establishment at Harristown. He is also a dealer in agricultural implements, proprietor of a feed stable and is in charge of a flourishing automobile agency.

He was born near York, Pennsylvania, March 2, 1879, a son of Daniel and Sarah (Jacoba) Shettel, both of whom were natives of the Keystone state, and a grandson of Daniel and Elizabeth Shettel, also natives of Pennsylvania. The grandfather was a farmer but his son became a blacksmith and when the subject of this review became old enough he was put to work in the shop. He acquired a common-school education and at sixteen years of age, feeling that opportunities lay westward, he came to Macon county and for the first two years after his arrival worked upon a farm. At the end of this time he entered the blacksmith shop of a brother who was living at Warrensburg, this county, and there he continued for seven years, becoming thoroughly familiar with the blacksmith's

trade. He next worked for two years in a shop at Greenview, Menard county. Having saved his money, he came to Harristown in 1904 and purchased a shop, starting in business for himself. After he had fairly launched upon his independent venture, he entered the implement business and still later he opened a feed stable. In July, 1910, he accepted the agency of the Interstate Automobile Company and up to date has disposed of a number of automobiles. He also does repair work on automobiles and in his various lines of business has shown an energy and capacity that give promise of continued advancement.

On September 2, 1903, at Warrensburg, Mr. Shettel was united in marriage to Miss Ada Taggart, a daughter of Captain Taggart. She is a well educated woman and by her sympathy and cooperation has greatly assisted her husband in his work. Having no children of their own, they have adopted a son, Earl Edwin, whom they propose to educate in such a way that he will make a useful and honorable citizen.

Mr. Shettel is a man of public spirit and in 1905, being a strong advocate of water works for Harristown, he prevailed upon Mr. Scroggin to supply the money so that the town now has a modern system of waterworks operated by compressed air by a gasoline engine. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and his wife of the Royal Neighbors, and they are also connected with the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Shettel is a loyal and faithful citizen, having the best interests of the community at heart, and is politically identified with the republican party, of which he as been an earnest supporter ever since he arrived at man's estate.

NICHOLAS DRAKE.

Although more than a quarter of a century has come and gone since Nicholas Drake was called from this life he is yet well remembered by many who knew him as one of the prosperous and representative farmers of this section of the state. He became a resident of Macon county in 1861, at which time he purchased a tract of eighty acres of wild prairie land lying in Friends Creek township. He at once began the arduous task of breaking the sod, and when the fields were prepared for cultivation he planted the seed, later cultivated the crops, and in due time gathered abundant harvests. He also fenced his fields and otherwise improved his place, erecting thereon substantial buildings. He also extended the boundaries of his farm by the additional purchase of forty acres, and in course of time developed a good property. The soil is naturally rich and productive, and as the result of his cultivation he was able to derive a substantial annual income from his crops.

On the 28th of February, 1865, Mr. Drake was married to Miss Margaret J. Briggs, a native of Franklin county, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of John and Mary Briggs, both of whom were natives of the Keystone state. On removing westward the Briggs family settled in Ohio, and there the father died. The mother with her children afterward journeyed westward with teams across the country to Illinois in 1863, and settled in Macon county on Friends

Creek, where she spent her last years. Mrs. Drake was reared and educated in Ohio and accompanied her mother to Illinois, where two years later she gave her hand in marriage to Nicholas Drake, being at that time eighteen years of age. They established their home upon a farm in Friends Creek township, and Mr. Drake being an industrious and enterprising agriculturist, ever kept his place in good shape. As the years passed he became known as a successful farmer, stock-raiser and feeder, and his business interests brought him into close connection with the people of Decatur. He was recognized as a man of good business ability, of strict integrity, and sterling personal worth. He reared his family and spent his last years upon the farm, and his death was the occasion of deep regret to all who knew him.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Drake was born a daughter, Alice, now the wife of Alfred Marsh, a resident of Maroa, by whom she has one son, Roy Marsh. The two sons of the family have passed away. St. Clair Drake was married and followed farming in Macon county until his death. He left a wife and two daughters: Nora, now the wife of Newton Burkam, who occupies Mrs. Drake's farm; and Mary, at home. The other son was John W., who married Alice Naridith. He was engaged in railroading for eighteen years and was killed by a train in Chicago.

After her husband's death Mrs. Drake took charge of the farm and carefully managed her business affairs for a number of years, displaying in this good ability, keen insight and capable management. At length she left the farm however, and removed to Argenta, where she purchased a neat and pleasant home, which she has occupied for a number of years. Her wise control of her business interests has brought to her a good income, supplying her with all of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life.

HON. THOMAS N. LEAVITT.

Real worth and ability will always come to the front: it is an inevitable conclusion, as it were, a "survival of the fittest." While Hon. Thomas N. Leavitt, had no particular advantages at the outset of his career, his course has been marked by a steady progress and has wrought along the lines of general good, while at the same time he has made continuous advancement in those fields of business wherein his talent and qualities have found adequate expression. A native of New Hampshire, Mr. Leavitt was born in Rockingham county, October 6, 1838, a son of Anthony B. and Fannie F. (Lamprey) Leavitt, who were also natives of the Old Granite state. They left New England, however, in 1843, and made their way westward to Peoria county, Illinois, where they resided until 1848, when they became residents of Marshall county, this state. The following year the father crossed the plains to California and his death occurred in that state in 1850, when he was thirty-five years of age. His birth had occurred in 1815 and he was married in 1837. He was a carpenter by trade and followed that pursuit in order to provide for his family until the hope of more rapidly winning a competence in the mines of the west led him to the

Pacific coast. His widow, who was born in 1815, died in 1896. In their family were four children; Thomas N., of this review; Mrs. Hannah Finney, who died in Henry, Illinois, in 1908; John F., who has been engaged in the ice business in Henry for a number of years; and Mrs. Fannie E. Kingsley, a widow of York, Nebraska.

Thomas N. Leavitt accompanied his parents on their various removals in his youthful days. He continued a resident of Marshall county, Illinois, until 1861, when he removed to Maroa, where he has since made his home. His education was acquired in the public schools of Henry and in the Northern Illinois Institute at that place, attending the latter school for two years. After putting aside his text-books he carried on farming for four years, but the outbreak of the Civil war made the interests of his country a paramount factor in his life and in July, 1862 he enlisted for active service at the front, becoming a member of Company C of the Sixty-sixth Illinois Regiment, known as Burgess or Western Sharpshooters. After serving with that command for three years he was honorably discharged in November, 1864, as a noncommissioned officer holding the rank of corporal. He participated in the Sherman campaign through Georgia, was in the battle of Corinth and took part in many engagements, including all of those in which his regiment participated and some in which the command did not take part, this being due to the fact that he was an orderly at headquarters.

When the war was over Mr. Leavitt entered the grocery business in Maroa and after successfully continuing in that trade for some time sold out and turned his attention to the lumber, coal and farm implement business. In all of his efforts in the field of merchandising he has displayed marked enterprise and indefatigable energy and success has followed as the legitimate reward of his labors. Moreover he has been a prominent factor in the early life of the community and no man is more widely known or more popular in Maroa and his part of the county. He served as postmaster for seventeen consecutive years, being first appointed during President Grant's first administration. He was recommended to the office by General Moore, who was then congressman from this district. He continued to engage in merchandising during the time when he was postmaster and in fact was numbered among the prominent representatives of commercial interests in Maroa until 1900, when he retired from business. He has, however, been a director of the State Bank of Clinton since its organization in 1892.

In political circles Mr. Leavitt is a prominent figure and since age conferred upon him the right of franchise he has ever been a stalwart republican. His opinions carry weight in the councils of his party and his efforts have been effective in promoting republican success. He was elected to the thirty-eighth general assembly for a term of two years, has been a member of the state board of equalization for two terms of four years each, from 1896 until 1900 and again from 1904 until 1908, and was chairman of the board of supervisors for one term, before being sent as a representative to the legislature. He was also elected to the forty-seventh general assembly. He has likewise been a delegate to state and congressional conventions and is widely recognized as one of the prominent republicans in this section of Illinois.

On the 31st of October, 1858, Mr. Leavitt was united in marriage to Miss Catharine A. Crowell, who was born in Butler county, Ohio, in 1843, a daughter of Moses and Salina Crowell, who removed with their family to Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Leavitt now have one child, Clara F., who is the wife of J. F. Harris, of Maroa, and has two children, Newell L. and Alma F. Mr. Leavitt belongs to the Masonic fraternity in which he has taken the degrees of the blue lodge and chapter at Maroa and the Knights Templar commandery at Clinton, Illinois. He is also a member of the Mystic Shrine of Peoria. His has been an active and well spent life in which success has followed legitimate labor, intelligently directed, while his worth and value as a citizen are attested by the many times he has been called to public office by the appointment or vote of his fellow townsmen. In matters of citizenship he has ever displayed a most progressive spirit and is as true and loyal to the old flag in days of peace as when he followed the nation's starry banner on the battle fields of the south.

WILLIAM F. BUSHER.

Those who were residents of Decatur when William F. Busher arrived in this city over a half century ago can remember him as a humble shoemaker, working at the bench, mending shoes and doing other such tasks as fell to his lot. At the time of his death he was a capitalist, living retired from labor, for his life of industry and strict and unswerving integrity, combined with perseverance and unremitting diligence, brought to him a handsome competence. He was a native of the fatherland. Much of the civilization of the world has come from the Teutonic race. Continually moving westward, they have taken with them the enterprise and advancement of their eastern homes and have become valued and useful citizens of various localities. In this country especially have they demonstrated their power to adapt themselves to new circumstances, retaining at the same time their progressiveness and energy, and have become loyal and devoted citizens, true to the institutions of the "land of the free" and untiring in promotion of all that will prove of benefit to their adopted country. The German element in America forms an important part of American citizenship and while they cannot attain to the highest civil office in the gift of the people, they have given ample evidence of their power to sustain and uphold the government of the republic and to become the factors in various communities to whom the locality owes its progress and prosperity.

When William F. Busher was born in the kingdom of Hanover, Germany, in December, 1831, his parents might have dreamed of a brilliant future for their little son, but it is safe to say that they never thought that he would one day become one of the foremost citizens of an enterprising metropolitan center of Illinois. He was, however, associated with Decatur for more than a half century and his name occupied a conspicuous place on the pages of its commercial history. His parents, Frederick and Dorothy (Reimer) Busher, were both natives of Germany and the father was a farmer by occupation, to which pursuit he

Yours Truly

W. L. Bushee

MRS. W. F. BUSHER

devoted the best years of his life. Both he and his wife passed away in the fatherland.

In the usual manner of farm lands of that district and period William F. Busher was reared. He attended the common schools, acquiring a good knowledge of the German language and the branches therein taught and also a fair knowledge of the English tongue. Attracted by the business possibilities of the new world he came to the United States and in 1849 landed at Baltimore, Maryland, whence he proceeded by rail and canal to Pittsburg and thence by steamboat to Cincinnati, Ohio. He was then in his eighteenth year and for a time he attended school in Cincinnati. Prepared for a business career by learning the shoemaker's trade in Germany, during his first few months in that city he received one dollar per week and his board. For three years he remained in Cincinnati and then went to Indianapolis, Indiana, where he followed his trade for twelve months. On the expiration of that period he took up his abode in St. Louis, Missouri, where he worked at shoemaking until 1853, which year witnessed his arrival in Springfield, Illinois. In that city he attended the Lutheran College for a time and thus added to his knowledge and at the same time gained a greater proficiency in the use of the English tongue. The development of his character was based upon firm Christian faith and the principles with which he became imbued through attendance at Sunday school and church were potent factors in shaping his entire career.

In 1855 Mr. Busher came to Decatur and here he opened a shoe shop for the purpose of making and mending shoes, continuing to work on the bench until 1862. He then purchased a small stock of ready-made goods and finding that there was more profit to be made in the sale of such goods than in making them he entered into partnership with John Black and purchased quite a large stock. Opening their store, the firm soon secured a large and growing trade and the partnership existed continuously from 1871 until 1881, when it was dissolved by mutual consent. Mr. Busher purchased his partner's interest and for some time was alone, but afterward became associated with Walter Hutchins under the firm style of W. F. Busher & Company. This relation was maintained for five years and then again Mr. Busher became sole proprietor. He was then carrying a large and carefully selected stock and had an extensive patronage, which made the business very remunerative. For almost forty years he was a representative of commercial interests in Decatur and in 1894, with a handsome competence as the reward of his labors, he retired from mercantile life. In 1862 he had erected a good business block at 152 East Main street. It is twenty-two by eighty feet and three stories in height, and this he owned at the time of his death. He also had other property interests in Decatur, including a number of dwelling houses, which he rented and from which he derived a good annual income.

Mr. Busher was twice married. On the 21st of February, 1856, he wedded Miss Louise Bekemyer of Springfield. She was born in Germany, spending the greater part of her girlhood in Prussia, but was living in the capital of Illinois at the time of her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Busher became the parents of four children: Walter, who died in his twenty-first year; Carrie, who is the wife of George P. Zeiss, of Houston, Texas; Sophia B., who is the wife of William P. Shade, a prominent business man and merchant of Decatur; and Josie, the wife

of Charles Schuck, a lumber merchant of Springfield, Illinois. The wife and mother passed away in October, 1897, and in 1898 Mr. Busher was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Mary A. Jones, a most estimable lady whose value in social and benevolent circles is widely acknowledged. She is a member of the board of managers of the Anna B. Millikin Home, a charitable institution, and in her is vested the power of admission and dismission in connection with this home. She possesses not only rare executive ability and marked tact in dealing with the unfortunate ones of life, but also a most cordial and charming manner that has made her a favorite among her many friends. She presides with gracious hospitality over her own beautiful home and its good cheer has ever been greatly enjoyed by the many who have known both Mr. and Mrs. Busher in Decatur. William F. Curtis Busher, a son of Mrs. Busher by her first husband, was adopted by our subject and now retains his name.

While actively connected with business affairs Mr. Busher also found time to aid in the promotion of interests calculated to benefit his city and his cooperation with movements for the general good was far-reaching and beneficial. His fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, called him to serve in the city council, of which he was a member in 1870-1. He was never an active politician, however, and the honors of office had little attraction for him. Mr. Busher was among the first to erect a monument of marked beauty to the memory of his family in Greenwood cemetery. This is in the form of a mausoleum built of granite by most skilled workmen, and was constructed at a cost of several thousand dollars. About 1873 he erected a fine residence, built of brick and modern in all of its appointments. Mr. Busher was called to his final rest on the 5th of September, 1906. His life's span covered three-quarters of a century and although the snows of many winters rested upon his head in spirit and interests he seemed yet in his prime. He never had occasion to regret his determination to seek a home in America, for in this land, where opportunity is open to all, he steadily advanced until he occupied a foremost position as one of the wealthy and honored men of his adopted city.

ANDREW J. HANKS.

Andrew J. Hanks is one of the oldest native sons of Macon county and its history is largely familiar to him. He relates many interesting incidents of the early days and his memory forms a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present. He was born May 17, 1835, on the site of what is now Boiling Springs in Hicktory Point township, four miles northwest of Decatur. He comes of a family who were relatives of Abraham Lincoln in the maternal line. John Hanks, his uncle, was an early associate of Lincoln and was born in Hardin county, Kentucky, on the 9th of February, 1802. He was a son of William Hanks, the grandfather of Andrew J. Hanks of this review. William Hanks was a Virginia by birth and at an early date removed to Kentucky, settling in Mercer county, on the Kentucky river. He married Elizabeth Hall and they lived for some time in Hardin and Breckinridge counties, of Ken-

BUSHER MAUSOLEUM

tucky, until they crossed the line into Grayson county. William Hanks first became acquainted with Abraham Lincoln in Hardin county. He was an own cousin of Nancy Hanks, Lincoln's mother. In 1822 John Hanks paid a visit to to the Lincolns in Spencer county, Indiana, whither they had moved, and made his home with them for two years. He split rails with the martyred president, who was seven years his junior, and they also worked together at grubbing lands and at other labor required in the development of a farm in a new country. Mr. Hanks purchased a tract of land adjoining the Lincoln farm, which he improved and then returned to Kentucky. He afterward made twelve trips down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to New Orleans, for the only means of disposing of his products was by freighting down the rivers on flat boats to the Crescent City. In 1826 he married Susan Wilson, a native of Grayson county, Kentucky, and in the fall of 1828 they became residents of Macon county, Illinois, settling in Harristown township, four miles northwest of Decatur. On their way to their new home they passed through Spencer county, Indiana, and visited for a time with the Lincoln family, Thomas Lincoln, the father of Abraham Lincoln, requested Mr. Hanks to write back, when he got to Illinois, and inform them concerning the country which he found and if it was better than in Indiana the Lincoln family would also come to Illinois. In accordance with this request Mr. Hanks wrote after becoming settled in Macon county, that he liked the country very much, considering it superior to that part of Indiana in which the Lincolns lived. In consequence Thomas Lincoln and his family came to Macon county in March, 1830. On coming to Macon county, Mr. Hanks had cut enough logs for a house on the Sangamon river but on account of not being able to get any prairie broken had settled in Hickory Point township. On the arrival of Thomas Lincoln, Mr. Hanks told him that he might have the logs to build a cabin if he liked the location. The offer was accepted and young Abe Lincoln hauled the logs with a yoke of oxen and used them in building a cabin near the Sangamon river in Harristown township. There the Lincoln family lived while residents of Macon county. In the summer of 1830 John Hanks went to the Lincoln home to help them fence a tract of land and he and Abraham Lincoln cut and split enough rails to enclose fifteen acres. It was from this lot that the rails were taken which were displayed at the Chicago convention in 1860. In the spring of 1831 Mr. Hanks and Abraham Lincoln built a flat boat at Sangamontown, five miles from Springfield, going to that town in March, cutting the timber, building the boat and in May floating it down the Sangamon and on to the Mississippi river. At St. Louis John Hanks left the boat to return home and visit his family, while Lincoln and the others of the crew took the boat down the Mississippi to New Orleans.

In 1832 John Hanks served in the Black Hawk war as a member of a company commanded by Isaac C. Pugh, and thus aided in terminating the Indian outbreak in Illinois. He afterward returned to Macon county, where he engaged in farming until 1850, when he crossed the plains to California, spending three years in mining there about seventy miles from Sacramento. In 1853 he returned to Macon county and was here indentified with farming interests until after the outbreak of the Civil war, when he enlisted in Company A, Twenty-first Illinois Regiment, which was then commanded by Colonel, afterward Gen-

eral, U. S. Grant. Although fifty-nine years at the time of his enlistment, Mr. Hanks served for over two years as wagon master and when Grant had command of the regiment Mr. Hanks had charge of his staff team. He was on duty in Missouri, Tennessee, Arkansas, Kentucky, Alabama and Mississippi, and was honorably discharged at Winchester, Tennessee. When Lincoln was elected to the presidency, he invited Mr. Hanks to dine with him in Springfield and offered to do anything for him as an old comrade but Mr. Hanks declined to accept an office, preferring to be with his family at home. Prior to the war he was a democrat but always supported Lincoln when he was a candidate for any office and after the Rebellion he remained a stanch republican. His wife died in March, 1863. In the family were eight children: William; James Lewis; Jane, the wife of Alexander T. Medlin; John Felix; Emily, the wife of Elijah Loomis; Grayson; Mary Ellen, the wife of John Manning; and Levi.

James Hanks, the father of Andrew J. Hanks, was born in Kentucky in 1790 and was the eldest child of William and Elizabeth (Hall) Hanks, pioneer residents of Macon county. He wedded Rebecca Atherton, and their children were: Isaac; Nancy, the wife of Abe Miller; Elizabeth Jane, the wife of J. Henkle; Mary, who died in childhood; John Lewis, who also died in childhood; Lucinda Jane, the wife of Jacob Harris; William Benjamin; Andrew J., of this review; Margaret; Sarah, the wife of Wesley Calhoun; Rebecca Ellen, the wife of J. W. Tyler; Susan Malinda, who died in childhood; and Martha Emeline, the wife of Benjamin Ryder. The father of these children was laid to rest on the bluff of the creek near his old home but later his remains were disinterred and placed in Greenwood cemetery. The venerable mother of the family, who was born in Kentucky, in 1802, died in Macon county. At one time James Hanks was offered a Mexican land warrant for eighty dollars, which would have secured land within six miles of Decatur. He was the sixth man to settle in Macon county. His first home was built of round logs and the little cabin was situated a quarter of a mile north of the Boiling Springs. It contained four rooms and it was there that Andrew J. Hanks first saw the light of day. There is a contrast presented between the buildings of the present time and that in which the log houses were constructed. First large logs were laid in position as sills and on these were placed strong sleepers which supported the rough hewn puncheon floors. The logs were then built up until the proper height for the eves was reacher then the ends of the building were placed and upon the whole were laid poles longer than the logs, projecting eighteen or more inches over the side, called butting pole sleepers. On the prejecting ends of these were placed the butting pole, which served to give the line to the first row of clapboards. As a matter of course these were split and, as the gables of the cabin were built up, were laid on so as to lap a third of their length. They were kept in place by the weight of a heavy pole which was laid across the roof parallel to the ridge pole. The house was then chinked and daubed with a coarse mortar and in one end of the house was a huge fireplace, over which the meals were cooked. It also furnished heat in the winter, for there were no stoves in the early days. The ceilings above were sometimes covered with the pelts of the raccoon, opossum or the wolf, which added much to the warmth of the building and sometimes the soft inner bark of the basswood had to be used for the same purpose. A log would

be taken out of the side of the house and in the aperture were placed sheets of strong paper, well greased with coon grease or bear oil and in this way the room was lighted. A ladder made from sassafras poles with rungs placed in holes served as a means for entrance into the loft. There were no hinges on the doors and attached to the wooden latch was a string that hung on the outside in the daytime and was withdrawn through a hole at night so that the door could not be opened from without. Flint and tow were used to ignite the fires and furniture was all made on the place from a puncheon. The seats were made with three or four legs supporting a horizontal block of wood. Bedsteads were in keeping with the rest of the furniture and were so constructed that they could be drawn up and fastened to the wall in the day in order to make more room. All furniture was manufactured with an ax and auger and each man was his own carpenter. The common table knife was the pack knife or butcher knife, the prairie was broken with ox teams and the work of the farm was of a most arduous character. The father of Mr. Hanks has killed as high as four or five wild turkeys from his cabin door. Brooms were made from hickory brush, Mrs. Hanks manufacturing many of them. Andrew J. Hanks and his father also manufactured baskets for the market in Springfield, to which place he has hauled many a load and the father has also hauled butter to Springfield, carrying as high as two thousand pounds on a load, where he sold it for six or seven cents per pound. This venerable pioneer and cousin of Abraham Lincoln crossed into Illinois with a two wheeled cart and camping outfit. In later years Andrew J. Hanks returned to Kentucky with a two horse wagon, which trip was an eventful one. While crossing the White river at Vincennes, Indiana, the wagon being loaded on an old scow, Mr. Hanks in some way fell overboard into the water. The stories which he tells of the early days are most interesting and give a very clear and correct picture of conditions that existed at that time. He well remembers holding a grease light while the father made the shoes for the family and also made the lasts upon which they were shaped. Wild animals of many kinds were to be seen around the cabin and he has seen as many as eighteen deer in a drove upon the place. While being sent out to pen up the sheep, Mr. Hanks has often met wolves, from which the farm animals had to be protected. His mother bore her full part in the work of those pioneer days. She would spin and weave the cloth used in making all the clothing for the family and from flax manufactured the thread which she used. She was greatly beloved throughout the neighborhood because of her kindliness, her hospitality and her helpful spirit. She was often seen on horseback riding to church, sometimes coming to Decatur to attend the meetings of the Christian church, to which she belonged. She possessed all the virtues of a good housewife of the early day. Her corn dodgers were considered a luxury and her well cooked meals prepared in skillets in the fireplace were greatly relished not only by the family but by the many guests who partook of the hospitality of that pioneer home.

Andrew J. Hanks is now the oldest member of the Hanks Association, which held their reunion at Fairview Park in Decatur on the 26th of August, 1910. He is a typical pioneer citizen, a man of retentive memory, who was reared and educated amid the pioneer surroundings in the days when the subscription school existed. The schoolhouse was very primitive, with its puncheon floors and slab

seats. His life history if written in detail would constitute a most interesting volume as a picture of pioneer days. He well remembers when what is now Central Park, Decatur, was an unimproved forest. He has taken a sack of melons on horseback to Decatur at a time when the village could hardly have consumed so many. In those days a yoke of steers furnished the power for the carding mill that was being operated in the village and a charge at so much a pound was made for carding the wool. Mr. Hanks hauled the first load of brick to erect the piers of the Illinois Central Railroad and also helped to build the Wabash Railroad. In fact he was employed in some way or another in building most of the roads of Decatur. In 1857 he learned the plasterer's trade under Nesbitt & Mayers and has worked on many of Decatur's buildings, its high school and other educational institutions. Since 1890 he has been living retired at his present place of residence, at No. 2107 North Union street. He first had two acres of land here but has since sold one acre. His home was the third house erected north of the railroad and he owns two houses at Nos. 241 and 247 West Wood street, which he rents. He also has eighty acres of land on section 10, Hickory Point township.

On the 2d of October, 1872, Mr. Hanks was married to Miss Martha Emeline Hunter, and unto them were born four children: Ada, who died at the age of six years; one who died in infancy; Roy, who died in childhood; and Harry H., who in 1908 was married to Miss Edna Brown, a native of Canada.

In politics Mr. Hanks is a republican and has always supported the party. He and his wife are members of the Central Church of Christ of Decatur. He now lives in honorable retirement at the age of seventy-five years. His life history is not only of interest because of its close connection with pioneer events in Macon county but also on account of the relation with the Lincoln family and their active association with the martyred president during the days of his early manhood and his pioneer struggles in Illinois.

JOSEPH GREGORY.

Joseph Gregory, of Pleasant View township, Macon county, is recognized by his neighbors and friends as one of the stanch men of central Illinois, who make no promises they do not fulfill and whose word may always be depended upon. Industrious, enterprising and energetic in a high degree, his success is the result of his own well directed efforts. He is public-spirited in all his dealings and while he enjoys a goodly measure of prosperity, he is also happy in the knowledge that others are also prosperous. Mr. Gregory is a native son of Illinois and was born on the farm where he now lives May 9, 1874. He is a son of Isaac and Delia (Moore) Gregory, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania, November 6, 1834, and the latter in New Jersey in 1835. The father came to Illinois with his parents at six years of age, in 1840, the family settling in Sangamon county for twenty years and then locating permanently in Macon county. Here Isaac Gregory became a successful farmer and he and his estimable wife are now enjoying the results of many years of well applied in-

dustry. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Gregory, the subject of this review being the only one now living. He was two half-brothers, Isaac and Thomas Gregory, the former of whom makes his home in Sangamon county, Illinois, and the latter in Texas.

George Gregory, the grandfather, a native of England, was one of the early pioneers of Sangamon county and one of its most respected citizens. In his early manhood he was an engineer in Philadelphia, being the first engineer who ever ran over the Mardosia now the Wabash Railroad. He attained a wide reputation in those times for his skill at the throttle, so that for four years during one period he worked seven days each week, never missing a Sunday. Later there was a general demand for his services in setting up sugar cane engines in different parts of the country. In 1854 he purchased one thousand acres of land in Macon county at seven dollars an acre. This transaction was regarded as a wonderful event by the early settlers, but the same land is now worth more than two hundred thousand dollars. He became a large landholder in Menard and Sangamon counties and also an extensive cattle dealer and feeder of live-stock. The scale on which he conducted his affairs may be understood when it is stated that at one time he drove five hundred and twenty hogs to the market at St. Louis, delivering them in a single consignment. The wife's name was Sarah Knowles. She came from England at his solicitation in order that they might be married. George Gregory departed this life in 1887 and his remains were deposited in a cemetery at Springfield. The beloved wife was called away in 1893.

Joseph Gregory was educated in the public schools of Decatur and Macon and remained upon the home farm with his parents until thirty years of age when he took unto himself a life companion. As a young man he began farming on his own account and as the years advanced and opportunity offered, he increased his landed property until at the present time he is the owner of three hundred and twenty acres in section 11, Pleasant View township. He lives in a comfortable home which was built by his father but has since been remodeled and thoroughly modernized. Upon the farm he has made many improvements among which is a barn forty-two by sixty feet in foundation area—one of the largest barns in the county. He is a general farmer and raises a great deal of live-stock which he sends to the market in such good condition that it usually commands the highest prices.

On the 30th day of August, 1904, Mr. Gregory was united in marriage to Mrs. Bertha (Browning) Roach, who was born in Piatt county, Illinois, June 12, 1876, a daughter of John and Catherine (Rand) Browning, the former of whom was born in Kentucky July 24, 1855, and the latter in Illinois, March 10, 1858. The father came to Illinois at the age of six years and he and his wife are now respected residents of Atwood, Illinois. They were the parents of four children: Bertha, herein mentioned; Frank, of Decatur; Etta, a trained nurse now living in Decatur; and Olive, the wife of Ray Wright, of Decatur. The first husband of Mrs. Gregory was Albert Roach, a native of Cumberland county, Illinois, where he was born October 5, 1874. He became a clerk in a general store of an uncle at Lovington, Illinois, and was a young man of unusual business promise. He was called away February 13, 1900, and is buried at Loving-

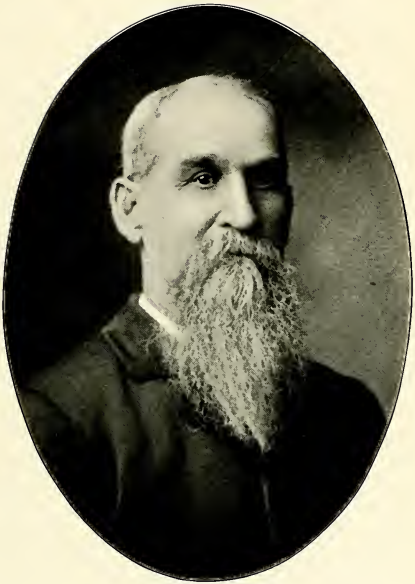
ton. Three children have come to bless the union of Mr. and Mrs. Gregory: Helen, born July 18, 1905; Katherine, born December 13, 1906; and Dorothy, born June 22, 1909. These children were all born in the same house in which the father first saw the light of day. By her first marriage Mrs. Gregory was the mother of one child, Freda, born March 30, 1897. She is now attending school and also taking music lessons. Elijah Moore, an uncle of our subject, who in earlier days was prominent in Masonic circles at Springfield, Illinois, became a soldier for the Union and was killed at Fort Donelson. John Rand the grandfather of Mrs. Gregory, died form the effect of arduous service in the same war, and John and Mills Rand, uncles of Mrs. Gregory, were also valiant soldiers at the time the nation was in danger.

Mr. Gregory ever since arriving at the age of manhood has been an adherent of the republican party. He is an earnest friend of education and at the present time is a school director. Fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias and he has many friends in that great organization. He was exceedingly fortunate in the selection of a wife who has been to him not only a loving helpmate but a safe adviser and intelligent companion, sharing in his joys and sorrows and always willing to contribute her part in forwarding any worthy object. She is a valued member of the Lovington Christian church and in social affairs is a leader. Mr. Gregory by a useful life has endeared himself to those with whom he is associated and is a worthy representative of the family whose name is inseparably connected with the history of Illinois.

JOHN H. MILLER.

On the roll of Decatur's honored dead appears the name of John H. Miller, who in every relation of life bore himself with signal dignity and honor. His activity in public life contributed to the material development of Macon county, while his labors in his private business affairs added to his individual success. He was a lifelong resident of Macon county, for his birth occurred in Decatur, on the 8th of August, 1841, on the spot where the magnificent Pythian Home was recently erected. His youthful days were spent on the home farm, his parents being David and Martha Y. Miller. His education was acquired in the common schools, while his training at farm labor was received under the direction of his father.

He had reached mature years when the Civil war broke out and feeling that his first duty was to his country, about the time he attained his majority, on the 7th of August, 1862, he enlisted for service at the front as a member of Company B, One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Infantry. This company was organized at Camp Macon in Decatur, which stood where Fairview Park is now located. Proceeding southward to Vicksburg, Mr. Miller participated in many of the most important battles of the war. He was in the battle of Arkansas Post and was with Grant during the forty days' siege at Vicksburg. He also participated in the battles of Missionary Ridge and Chattanooga, where his regiment was one of the first to cross the Chattanooga river on pontoons. In the



JOHN H. MILLER

battle of Lookout Mountain he was wounded in the side by a bullet. He was in the Atlanta campaign and also in the celebrated march to the sea, and on through the Carolinas to Petersburg and Richmond, Virginia, and at the close of hostilities took part in the grand review at Washington, D. C., when thousands of soldiers marched through the streets of that city and past the grand stand, where President Lincoln stood watching the brave men who had preserved the Union. Although Mr. Miller enlisted as a private, he was later made second sergeant and at Young's Point was made second lieutenant, while later he was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant. While at the front he never faltered in the performance of any duty no matter where it called him, and after three years of faithful and valiant service he received an honorable discharge in the capital city in July, 1865.

Following the close of hostilities, Mr. Miller returned to his home in Decatur and here on the 8th of November, 1866, he was united in marriage to Miss Charlotte J. Cox, who was born September 6, 1845. The young couple began their domestic life upon a farm near the city and as the years passed Mr. Miller added to his holdings until he became the possessor of several hundred acres of land. He was actively identified with general agricultural pursuits throughout a long period and his labors brought him a success that any man might be proud to possess.

Unto John H. and Charlotte J. Miller were born six children: William D., who wedded Miss Carrie Jacobs; Martha Y., who is the wife of David Diller and resides in Albany, Texas; Ira B., now deceased; Ada L., who became the wife of S. H. Procter but is now deceased; Mary H., the wife of E. B. Johnson, a resident of Heyburn, Idaho; and Minnie T., the wife of Dana F. Black, who is an extensive farmer of Macon county, residing a mile west of Elwin. After a happy married life covering about twelve years, Mr. and Mrs. Miller were separated by the death of the wife and mother on the 28th of January, 1879, her remains being interred in Mount Gilead cemetery south of the city.

On the 28th of December, 1881, Mr. Miller was again married, his second union being with Mary J. Muirheid. She was born November 6, 1855, in Harrison county, Missouri, and was a little maiden of eight years when she accompanied her parents, William and Margaret J. Muirheid, on their removal from that state to Macon county, Illinois. They were prominent pioneers of this section of the state and with the exception of a brief period, spent their remaining days in this county. Mrs. Miller received a good public-school education and prior to her marriage taught in the home district. Mr. Miller continued on the farm after his second marriage but finally, his health becoming impaired, he purchased a home in Decatur and on the 24th of October, 1906, removed to this city, and after two and a half years of patient suffering, he passed away August 31, 1908, in the faith of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, having for many years held membership at Shady Grove.

Although leading a very busy life in connection with his private business affairs, Mr. Miller's zeal in behalf of beneficial public interests was perhaps the predominant feature in his life. He was a lifelong democrat and always took an active part in political affairs. For many years he was a tax collector of Macon county and held this office at the time the courthouse was erected in

Decatur, being a member of the building committee. He was also supervisor of the county for seventeen years and filled the office of school director for a number of years. He was actuated by a spirit of loyalty to the welfare and progress of the community that none questioned, and his labors on the whole were extremely effective, far-reaching and beneficial. He was likewise one of the organizers of White Post, No. 529, G. A. R., at Mount Zion, and for many years served as its commander. His name thus became indelibly impressed upon the pages of Macon county's history, and his memory is revered and honored by all who knew him. The widow still resides at the old home in Decatur and retains possession of the farm of two hundred and twenty acres, which is now being operated by the eldest son.

ELI S. ULERY.

Macon county, located in the center of Illinois, in one of the richest agricultural districts of the country, owes its high standing among the counties of the state to its farming and live-stock interests. Here these industries have been carried to a very high degree of perfection and here are seen many of the finest and most completely equipped farming establishments to be found anywhere in the world. Even the fondest dreams of the early settlers have been more than realized and to be a successful farmer of Macon county is synonymous with prosperity and the possession of practically every advantage that is known in connection with modern agriculture.

Among the prominent farmers of Macon county is Eli S. Ulery, a native of Mount Zion township, this county. He was born December 12, 1862, and is a son of Eli and Mary E. (Dillon) Ulery. His father was one of the remarkable pioneers of Illinois. He began with a capital of twelve dollars and became the owner of three thousand acres of rich Illinois soil. He was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, and came to Macon county in 1836, continuing here until his death, which occurred in December, 1898, when he was eighty-two years of age. He settled on two hundred and twenty acres and, being a man of great industry and foresight, he invested his money in land so that he became one of the large landholders of this part of the state. He was also a breeder of cattle and fattened a great deal of live stock for the market, driving to Chicago aind New York. Politically he was allied with the republican party. He had four brothers, all of whom continued in Pennsylvania and are now deceased. The mother of our subject was called away at the age of twenty-eight years. She was a daughter of Joshua Dillon, a stock-dealer and well known citizen of Mount Zion.

Eli S. Ulery grew up upon his father's farm but was deprived of the loving presence of a mother, she having departed when he was three years old. He was educated in the common schools and at Christian Brothers College at St. Louis. After leaving college he went to Colorado and for four years lived the life of a cowboy in the region south of the Arkansas river where he gained many experiences that have proved of practical benefit to him in later years. He returned home at eighteen years of age and in 1886 took charge of the home farm

which then consisted of six hundred and forty acres. There is no doubt that the talents of the parents are often inherited by their children, who are thus naturally endowed with abilities that are denied many others. An illustration of this fact is presented in the career of Mr. Ulery who is now the owner of nine hundred and ninety-eight acres and, like his father, has been successful in almost everything he has undertaken. About ten years ago he acquired a tract of land in the northern part of Mount Zion townshinp, a portion of which he has converted into a picnic and pleasure ground, known as Woodbine Park. Here he has built a bungalow and an artificial lake and has also erected a hotel, pavilion and boathouse and made many other improvements, so that the park is one of the most attractive pleasure spots of the country. He is also interested in a fishing pond a half-mile south of Mount Zion and is a great lover of hunting and fishing, making trips to various states of the south annually for this purpose.

On the 10th day of March, 1885, Mr. Ulery was united in marriage to Miss Fannie Gibson Bell, a daughter of Andrew and Lucy Bell, of Mount Zion. Five children have come to brighten the household, Bernard B., Simon K., Mona G., Earl A., and Mary I. Mr. Ulery affiliates with the republican party but has never sought office, as his interest is mainly devoted to business affairs. He and his family are well known in Macon county, the name having been closely identified with this portion of the state for many years and no name stands higher in the respect of the people of central Illinois.

HAROLD RIVES WOODCOCK.

The financial interests of Macon county are represented by some of its brightest and most progressive citizens, among whom may be named Harold R. Woodcock, of Macon, now head of the banking firm established by his father and known under the title of R. H. Woodcock & Company. Mr. Woodcock was born in this county, June 6, 1871, and is a son of Robert H. and Frances J. (Rives) Woodcock, the former of whom was born August 30, 1835, in Pennsylvania, and the latter March 18, 1841, in Illinois. The grandparents on the paternal side were Edmund and Susanna (Funk) Woodcock, the former of whom was of English and the latter of German descent. Grandfather Woodcock came with his family to Illinois in 1849. Here he followed the wagon-maker's trade. He was the father of ten children, nine of whom grew to maturity. He died at Quincy, Illinois, in 1856, his esteemed wife long surviving him and passing away at the advanced age of ninety-five years.

Robert H. Woodcock graduated from the Greene County Seminary, Illinois, at twenty-one years of age and become bookkeeper in a dry-goods store. In 1862 he established a grocery store in Macon but sold out in 1865 and entered the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad Company as agent, continuing in this capacity for sixteen years. He was also agent for the American Express Company for eighteen years. After acquiring a competence he engaged in the banking business with H. Faling and subsequently purchased the interest of his partner and was engaged almost continuously in financial affairs until his

death, which occurred May 30, 1909. He was one of the progressive and reliable men of the county and was highly esteemed by all with whom he came in contact. In politics he was a republican, serving as alderman of Macon for two years, mayor for one year and supervisor for fourteen years, one-half of which time he was chairman of the board. He was also actively connected with the Masonic order. On October 29, 1863, he married Miss Frances J. Rives, a daughter of Rev. James and Elizabeth (Hood) Rives, both of whom were from North Carolina. One child came to bless this union, Harold R.

The subject of this review was educated in the public schools and took a complete course at Brown's Business College of Decatur, graduating in 1890. Previously he had served as bookkeeper in the Woodcock & Hight Bank of Macon and after leaving the business college he became cashier of the Heilman grocery house of Decatur. In 1891 he was made cashier of the R. H. Woodcock & Company Bank in Macon and later occupied a similar position in the First National Bank at Collinsville, Illinois. In July, 1902, he returned to Macon and associated with his father in the banking business of which he is now sole owner. He has shown an ability which indicates that he is a worthy successor of his father, who was an acknowledged authority in Macon county on subjects pertaining to finances.

On the 25th of May, 1896, at Indianapolis, Mr. Woodcock was united in marriage to Miss Bertha R. Middleton, a daughter of John F. and Mary (Way) Middletown, natives of Canada, who came to Illinois about 1870. Mrs. Woodcock is the youngest of a family of seven children and was born June 12, 1877. One child, Rives Way, born November 13, 1897, has come to brighten the household.

Mr. Woodcock is politically in sympathy with the republican party and has served for two terms as chairman of the board of supervisors, also filling the office of town clerk of Macon. He is a past master of the Masonic lodge at Macon, and also holds membership in Beacon Lodge, No. 434, K. P. He has passed through all the chairs in the latter organization. In the discharge of his various duties he has shown a capacity that has met the hearty approval of those most interested. Reared under favorable circumstances, Mr. Woodcock has made successful application of the practical lessons he learned under his father and occupies an honorable position in the estimation of a host of friends in Macon county.

ERNEST D. CAMP.

Ernest D. Camp is the owner of a highly improved farm of one hundred and twenty acres on sections 23 and 24, Long Creek township, Macon county, of which he may well be proud as it is the result largely of his own industry and his earnest devotion to a calling to which he has given the chief energies of his life. It was through self-denial and perseverance and not a little sound judgment that he has been able to meet the difficulties that lay in the way, but now he may rest at ease and in comfort, knowing that he and his family are provided for during the remainder of their lives.

Mr. Camp was born in the township where he now lives, July 3, 1872. He is a son of Abel B. and Mary (Davis) Camp, the father born July 29, 1828, in Scott county, this state, and the mother born September 2, 1831. His paternal grandfather was born in Connecticut and when a young man went to Vermont, where he was married. About 1820 he brought his wife to Illinois and located in Scott county, where he entered land from the government. Our subject's maternal grandfather was Joseph Davis, who was a native of Kentucky, but his wife was born in North Carolina. They came to Illinois in 1828, locating first in Sangamon county but later removing to Long Creek township, Macon county, where he entered land from the government and purchased other tracts.

Abel B. Camp, after arriving at years of manhood, selected one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 17, Long Creek township and proceeded to improve the same but later found a more desirable tract of one hundred and sixty acres on section 23 and disposed of the property he had previously acquired. He engaged in general farming and stock-raising with marked success and in the course of years became the owner of a well improved farm of four hundred and twenty-six acres. He and his wife lived retired for some years before their death, the mother being called away March 24, 1891, and her respected companion on November 1, 1900. They were worthy representatives of the progressive and intelligent citizens of the county and their memory is revered by many old friends and acquaintances.

Ernest D. Camp was educated in the district schools and before attaining his majority engaged in teaching school. He continued upon the home farm until he was twenty-one years of age, when he began farming for himself by renting land from his father, also receiving forty acres which his father bestowed as a gift when the son arrived at his majority. At his father's death in 1900, he inherited other land also and he purchased forty acres more in 1906. By application and good judgment Mr. Camp has been successful from the very beginning as a farmer and is now the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of valuable land, which he has provided with all modern improvements as to buildings, fencing, drainage and trees. In addition to raising cereals he is devoting his attention to the raising of fine stock, for which he usually receives the highest price quoted in the market for stock of its class.

On August 19, 1896, Mr. Camp was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth M. Weaver, a daughter of George W. and Nora (Whaley) Weaver, of Long Creek township. The mother was a native of Ireland and the father was born in Glens Falls, New York. He came west to Macon county and later removed to Decatur, where he held a position in the machine shop of the Chambers, Bering & Quinlan Manufacturing Company. He is still living in that city, but his wife departed this life in 1888. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Camp has been brightened by the birth of two children: Chester B., born May 26, 1898; and Nora Marguerite, September 22, 1902.

Mr. Camp affiliates with the republican party and, although he has not been a seeker for public office, he is now serving his second term as township clerk. He is a member of the Methodist church and has been recording steward and trustee for several years. He has always taken hold energetically of anything that attracted his interest and the neat and orderly appearance of his farm is

evidence that he does his work well. He is a man of pleasing manners and readily makes friends, never giving up a friend without sufficient cause. He may be depended upon to do as he says and in all his acts he aims to keep in mind the simple teaching of the golden rule, which he has found to be a safe and sure guide in all affairs, great and small, of daily life.

ROBERT E. GRAY.

Robert E. Gray, with a law and loan office at No. 143 North Water street, Decatur, is well established in the business circles of the city as one whose ability justly entitles him to the liberal clientage which is accorded him in both departments of his business. A native of Fayette county, Illinois, he was born in 1860 and is a grandson of Richard Gray, one of the pioneers of the state, who in 1834 became a resident of Coles county when the Indians were still numerous in that locality. The evidences of frontier life were many and it remained to a few courageous and venturesome men like Mr. Gray to penetrate the western wilderness and there plant the seeds of civilization. In 1854 he removed to Fayette county, Illinois, becoming one of the early settlers there. His son David P. Gray, the father of Robert E. Gray, was a carpenter and contractor for many years but afterward turned his attention to farming. He was born in Tennessee in 1833 and died in 1875 at the age of forty-two years. His wife, who was born in Illinois and was of Pennsylvania descent, passed away in 1872. In their family were seven children, four sons and three daughters, of whom three sons are yet living, the brothers of our subject being George W., a resident of Weldon; and Richard T., living in Oklahoma.

Robert E. Gray, devoting his youthful days to the acquirement of an education, attended the high school at Ramsey, Illinois, and also the normal school at Carbondale, this state while later he pursued the teacher's course in the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso, where he was graduated with the class of 1892. In the interim he taught in the district schools in Dewitt, Fayette, Moultrie, Tazewell and Menard counties of Illinois and in South Dakota, demonstrating his ability in the work of the schoolroom by the clear and concise manner in which he imparted to others the knowledge that he had acquired. He continued teaching in all for about twelve years and during that time was principal of the Lane school for four terms. While engaged in teaching he devoted the hours which are usually termed leisure to the study of law and pursued his first year's law course at Valparaiso, Indiana. He read under the direction of the firm of Farmer & Brown of Vandalia and was graduated from the law department of the Northern Indiana Normal School with the class of 1896.

Mr. Gray then opened his office in Decatur and in the intervening period of fourteen years has continued a practitioner at the bar of this city. He has also engaged in negotiating and placing loans and has secured a good clientage in both departments of his business. His ability as a practitioner before the bar is continually increasing as the result of his broadening experience and his close and discriminating study.

Moreover, he is recognized as one of the prominent political leaders in the democratic party in Macon county. While in Fayette county he was a delegate to the state conventions. He has served as chairman of the first precinct and of the first ward committee in Decatur and has been a delegate to the state conventions of his party. He likewise attended the convention in Denver in 1908, but was not a delegate. He is regarded, however, as one of the local leaders of his party and his opinions carry weight in its councils. He does not seek nor desire office for himself, preferring to concentrate his energies upon other and private business interests, but does all in his power to secure the election of the candidates which represent the principles in which he believes. He belongs to the Bar Association and to the Modern Woodmen camp and not only in professional and fraternal but also in social circles has many warm friends who entertain for him high and enduring regard.

WILLIAM L. ALLEN.

William L. Allen is well known in the commercial circles of Decatur, where he is engaged in the retail grocery business, conducting one of the handsomely appointed and well stocked grocery stores of the city. In its management he displays excellent business ability and keen discernment and his carefully directed labors are bringing to him continued success.

He is one of Decatur's native sons, born October 21, 1861, on what is now the site of his present handsome residence at No. 1650 East William street. He is a son of Samuel C. Allen, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. He acquired his education in the public schools, passing through consecutive grades until he became a high school student. When nineteen years of age he entered business circles, becoming associated with W. H. Strong in a mercantile enterprise at Morrisonville. Subsequently he returned to Decatur, where he engaged in clerking for a number of years. He afterward established and conducted a retail grocery house at No. 1502 East William street, carrying on business there for eight years, at the end of which time he sold his interest but after a few years' retirement again became a partner in the same store. He conducts a first-class grocery house, having a well established trade and carrying an extensive line of staple and fancy groceries. This location has long been occupied as a grocery store at 1502 to 1508 East William street. The business policy employed is one which commends the house to public patronage. The methods of trade are strictly reliable and courteous treatment is demanded on the part of all employes toward the customers. In 1908 Mr. Allen was honored by election to the presidency of the Retail Grocers Association, which position he held for two years.

On the 6th of June, 1883, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Allen and Miss Mary A. Sanders, of Sangamon county, Illinois. Their children are: Guy F., a draftsman with the Decatur Bridge Company, who married Miss Anna L. Bigelow and resides at No. 1745 East Eldorado street; Roy O., who is employed in the signal department of the Wabash Railroad Company; and

Emma J., who is now a senior in the Decatur high school. In the fall of 1909 Mr. Allen began the erection of a most attractive and beautiful modern home built after his own plans, and the family took possession thereof on the 2d of February, 1910. It is heated with hot water and supplied with all modern conveniences and would be a credit to a city of much larger size than Decatur.

Mr. Allen belongs to Ionic Lodge, No. 312, A. F. & A. M., of which he is a junior warden, and he is also chief of Decatur Court, No. 243, of the Tribe of Ben Hur. In matters of citizenship he is progressive and public-spirited, giving active support to every movement and measure which he deems of benfit in the upbuilding and improvement of the city. He has won favor in social as well as business circles and is held in high esteem throughout Decatur. Whatever he undertakes he carries forward to successful completion and his energy and determination enable him to overcome obstacles which would utterly dishearten and discourage others. In manner he is unaffected, genial and sincere and his many stering qualities have commended him to the confidence of those whom he meets in social and business relations.

SAMUEL KING SHAFFER.

Among those who have had influence in the moral and religious development of Decatur, Samuel King Shaffer is numbered. For more than thirty years he was a leading member of the Methodist church and his influence and aid were always cast on the side of progress, improvement, justice and truth. Ohio claimed him among her native sons, his birth having occurred at Bucyrus on the 4th of January, 1831. He was a son of George Shaffer, who served his country as a soldier of the American army in the war of 1812 for two years. By occupation he was a farmer and owned and cultivated several hundred acres of land.

When a very small boy Samuel King Shaffer was taken by his parents to Bellefontaine, Ohio, where he resided for a number of years, acquiring his education in that city and in the schools of Logan county, Ohio. He continued a resident of his native state until 1853, when at the age of twenty-two years he sought a home in Illinois, thinking that he might have better business opportunities in a less thickly settled district. Accordingly he came to Macon county and took up his abode in Decatur, where he resided until his death, which occurred on the 22d of December, 1891, in the house which his widow now occupies. He was for forty years engaged in the real-estate business in Decatur and was a leading representative of that field of industry. He was thoroughly informed concerning property values, knew what was upon the market and negotiated many important realty transfers. So long and prominently was he connected with the real-estate business that his opinions came to be accepted as authority upon any important question relating to real estate.

Mr. Shaffer was united in marriage upon the 21st of June, 1859, to Miss Erie M. Shaffer, of Chesterville, Ohio, a daughter of Tobias Shaffer, and following their marriage the young husband brought his bride at once to Decatur, where the family home has since been maintained. Unto them were born nine children:

MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL K. SHAFFER

Maria and Margaret, who died in infancy; Frank G., who married Miss Lucy Walker, of West Virginia, and now has one child Marie; D. H., who died in his sixteenth year; Richard T., who married Lulu E. Huff, of this city, and has two children, Leta May and Ralph; one who died in infancy; Charles H. who died when thirty-five years old; Guy T., who resided at home with his mother; and Vallie F., the wife of Edward McCune, by whom she has two children, Charles Spencer and Eunice M.

Mr. Shaffer belonged to no secret associations but was for more than thirty years a leading and influential member of the Methodist church of Decatur, ever loyal and faithful to its teachings, active in its work and generous in its support. His political allegiance was given to the republican party but while he believed firmly in its principles he did not seek nor desire office as a reward for party fealty. In business he was ever reliable and trustworthy and his success was attributable entirely to his own efforts. His real-estate operations enabled him to make judicious investments and from time to time he purchased property that enabled him to leave his widow in very comfortable financial circumstances when, on the 22d of December, 1891, he was called to his final rest. Mrs. Shaffer is very widely known in Decatur, where she has an extensive circle of friends. In addition to the home at No. 604 West North street, which he has now occupied for a number of years, she owns considerable other property here and from her realty holdings derives a substantial and gratifying annual income.

SCOTT CANNON.

Among the farmers of Macon county now deceased may be named Scott Cannon, who was called from earthly scenes February 6, 1892. He was for forty-four years an important factor in the agricultural development of the country and attained marked success not only in his farming operations but as an influential citizen, attracting many friends and ably contributing toward building up the best interests of the region with which he was so long identified.

He was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, March 18, 1839, and was a son of Byron and Sarah Cannon. In 1848 the family came to Macon county, driving through with teams as there were few railroads in the country in those days. The father settled on a farm, where he continued until his death, leaving a widow and seven children, the subject of this review having arrived at an age when he could assist materially in the support of the family. Under the circumstances it was possible for him to receive but a limited school education although in after years by reading and observation he largely overcame this deficiency. At twenty-one years of age he bought forty acres of land, on which he built a residence, later occupying a commodious modern building. By industry, economy and good management he was able to purchase more land until his farm embraced one hundred and twenty acres, for which he paid as much as forty dollars an acre. The family also owns a tract of eighty acres in Blue Mound township which belonged to the father of our subject. Mr. Cannon greatly improved the farm by the erection of buildings, fences and other structures and

by setting out an orchard and shade and ornamental trees. At his death his remains were interred in Long Point cemetery.

On December 29, 1870, Mr. Cannon was united in marriage in Blue Mound township to Miss Lucy J. Hall, who was born in Macon county, November 12, 1849, a daughter of James and Frances (Blankinship) Hall. Her father was born January 16, 1818, in Robertson county, Tennessee, and came to Illinois in his boyhood. The mother was a native of Rutherford county, Tennessee, and came to this state with her parents early in her life. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Cannon: Edward, who died in infancy; Emily, now at home with her mother; Lillie, who maried Dr. Henry M. Newkirk and lives in Harristown, this county, and has three children, Bruce Cannon, Garth Galen and Margaret Frances; and Velma Bruce, who received a good education and is now bookkeeper for the Electric Light & Railway Company at Decatur, Illinois.

Mr. Cannon was in sympathy with the democratic party but he never asked nor desired public office. His interests were centered in his family and his business, although as a patriotic citizen he responded heartily to every worthy enterprise. In his wife he found a sympathetic companion, who was to him a constant support and encouragement during the twenty-two years of their married life. Mrs. Cannon continued to live on the family homestead until 1894, when she removed to Harristown, where she now lives.

SAMUEL C. ALLEN.

Samuel C. Allen left the impress of his individuality upon the public life of Macon county in many ways. He was a prominent factor in business circles in an early day, held a number of local offices and was also a factor in the moral progress of the community. His many sterling traits of character gained him high place in the regard and confidence of his fellowmen and no history of the pioneer development of the county would be complete without mention of Samuel C. Allen.

He was born October 3, 1810, in Loudoun county, Virginia, ten miles south of Leesburg, and was a son of James and Elizabeth (Lee) Allen. The Allen family is of Irish origin. The great-grandfather, Robert Allen, lived in County Antrim, Ireland, and died at the venerable age of ninety-four years. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Janet Hair, died in the city of Larne, Ireland, at the age of seventy-five years. Robert Allen was a farmer by occupation and the old homestead on which he lived is still in possession of his descendents. He was also a man of considerable influence in the community and served as a ruling elder in the Presbyterian church. Unto him and his wife were born twenty-four children, eighteen of whom reached adult age and one of the number became the grandfather of Samuel C. Allen of this review. He was born on the Emerald isle, and, coming to America at the age of sixteen years, lived with a Quaker family in New Jersey. He, too, followed the occupation of farming as a life work. He died in 1799 at the age of eighty-four years. He had four

sons who were soldiers of the Revolutionary war, of whom one was killed, while two others died in service.

The maternal grandfather of Samuel C. Allen was David Lee, who was of Scotch descent and lived in New Jersey until 1775, when he removed to Virginia. He married a French lady and their daughter Elizabeth was born in New Jersey but was reared in Virginia, where she gave her hand in marriage to James Allen, who was born in the Old Dominion and became a farmer of that state. Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. James Allen settled in Loudoun county, Virginia, and as the years passed the following children were added to their family, namely: William, David L., Samuel, James, Samuel C., Lemuel, Margaret, Sarah, Mary, Teresa, Jane, Elizabeth, and one who died in infancy. The father of this family passed away in Loudoun county in 1845.

Upon the home farm in his native state Samuel C. Allen was reared and after attaining adult years managed the place for a time. On the 3d of October, 1831, however, he left the Old Dominion and on horseback traveled through Ohio and Tennessee. The following year he came to Macon county, Illinois, where his brother David had secured the first deed ever made out for land in this county. This brother, Captain David L. Allen, was a prominent figure in the history of Decatur. He gave Central Park to the city and also the lot on which the Citizens Bank now stands was deeded to the city as a site for a schoolhouse. He did more than any other citizen of an early day for the development and substantial upbuilding of Decatur and the county and his memory should ever be honored by the residents of the city who are now benefiting by his generosity and public spirit.

On reaching Macon county Samuel C. Allen purchased two hundred and forty acres of land, a part of which has since been platted and divided into city lots, lying within the corporation limits of Decatur. For a few years after his arrival he operated a gristmill belonging to his brother David, which was the second mill erected in the county and the only one in operation. In 1841 he was appointed postmaster and after the expiration of his term of office he devoted his time to farming and clerking until 1850, when he embarked in merchandising, which he followed for five years. At different times he was called to positions of public honor and trust. Before he engaged in merchandising he had served as assessor and later filled the office of county treasurer for four years, proving a most capable custodian of the public funds. In politics he was always a stalwart republican and did all in his power to promote the growth and secure the success of the party. He was also deeply interested in the moral welfare and progress of the community and for more than half a century was a consistent and helpful member of the Baptist church, with which he united during the early period of its existence.

In December, 1858, Mr. Allen went to Adams county, Ohio, and there married Mrs. Jane E. Reid, the widow of Minor Reid. She was born in Virginia and was a daughter of Enos and Mary (Davis) Gore, who were likewise natives of the Old Dominion. With his bride Mr. Allen returned to Macon county and they began their domestic life upon the farm. Their son, Edwin G., is a prominent business man of Decatur, at the head of the Allen Elevator Company. He has traveled extensively, gaining thereby the knowledge and culture which only

travel can bring. He married Miss Minnie Sine and they have a family. William L., the second son, is mentioned elsewhere in this volume. Orville R., a graduate of Rush Medical college and now engaged in the practice of medicine at Stanwood, Washington, married Mamie Stockbridge. Milton died at the age of three years and Frank D. died in 1898.

After leaving the office of county treasurer Mr. Allen engaged in farming until the death of his wife, who passed away in June, 1880, at the age of fifty-three years. She was a consistent member of the Methodist church and her many excellent qualities gained for her the kindly regard and warm friendship of all who knew her. Mr. Allen afterward retired from active business and lived with his son Edwin until his death, which occurred on the 3d of January, 1899, when he was in the eighty-ninth year of his age.

He was not only one of the venerable citizens of Decatur but one of its oldest residents in years of continuous connection with the city. When he came to Macon county Decatur was a little frontier village containing not more than a dozen families. Wolves came from the timber and could be heard howling at night. Wild deer were plentiful and venison was a frequent dish upon the pioneer tables, but the deep snow of 1830 and the very severe weather of that winter killed many. The first white settlers in the county were two brothers of the name of Lorton from St. Joseph, Michigan. They were Indian traders and did a thriving business until the red men ceased visiting this part of the country save in small numbers. The first real pioneer was the hunter and trapper, William Donning, who came from Vandalia in the fall of 1820 and built a log cabin near the site of the home of Captain D. L. Allen, brother of Samuel C. Allen. That cabin whs the first building erected for a residence within the limits of the county. In 1824 Donning sold out to John Ward. The first permanent settler was Leonard Stevens, Sr., who built a log house in 1821, three miles north of Decatur. A decade later Samuel C. Allen arrived and with the history of Macon county was closely identified from that period until his demise. He was public-spirited and took an active and helpful interest in everything pertaining to the progress and welfare of the community and bore an important part in shaping the early history and substantial development of the city and county. He was an interested witness of the changes which occurred and bore his full share in the work of general transformation brought about through the settlement of the county and the development of its business activities and public interests.

JOSEPH C. RORK.

Some men are born with a natural business sagacity and from the very beginning of their active career they exercise a cool and clear judgment which leads to constantly growing financial success. They make no serious blunders and seem to be naturally endowed with a capacity which the ordinary man may in some degree acquire by years of close observation and application, although in his case its application is by no means infallible and he never gains the facility of his more liberally endowed fellow.

Joseph C. Rork, whose name stands at the head of this review, apparently belongs to the former class. A large land owner, he has met with marked success in other lines and it today one of the enterprising and substantial citizens of Macon county. Born on a farm near Boody, Illinois, April 20, 1859, he is the son of Joseph and Ellen E. (Murray) Rork, both of whom were natives of Ireland, the father being born in 1823 and the mother in 1816. Coming to America, they were married in New York in 1851. In 1857 they located in Kentucky but the year following they settled permanently on a farm near Boody in Macon county. About 1865 Mr. Rork sold his farm and located in Long Creek township on a tract of forty acres of land in section 29. Ultimately he became the owner of a beautiful farm of five hundred and ninety acres which he brought to a high state of cultivation. He was a prominent feeder of cattle and hogs, and although he started with practically no resources, except those that were inherent within himself and the sympathy and cooperation of his wife, he became one of the most successful farmers in this part of the county. Mr. Rork was called to his last rest November 5, 1893, and his beloved companion departed this life December 2, 1900 They were the parents of three childrrn: Curtis W., a record of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Joseph C., of this review; and Mrs. Elizabeth Foley, who died September 1, 1891.

Joseph C. Rork received his education in the common schools and at eighteen years of age began devoting his attention to the farm, assisting his father and giving evidence, even when quite a young man, of special aptitude for agricultural pursuits. At twenty-six years of age he began operations for himself on the family estate, including the home place, and he has ever since followed general farming and live-stock raising and has been a prominent factor in advancing the farming interests of the county. In addition to his farm of two hundred and forty acres he rents one hundred and ten acres in the neighborhood from a niece and keeps about one hundred and sixty acres in cereals, the remainder of the farm being used as pasture. He erected a beautiful home which is provided with modern improvements and is one of the most attractive residences in the township. For a number of years he bought and sold land and at one time owned eight hundred acres of valuable land in this county. He is the owner of a thousand acre cattle ranch and rice plantation four miles from Eunice, Louisiana, and is also interested in coal mines at Lovington, this state, which are now being developed, and is president of the Farmers Insurance Company.

On September 9, 1884, Mr. Rork was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie Dunn, a daughter of William and Annie (Dempsey) Dunn, of Mount Zion township, this county. The parents are both natives of Ireland and were early settlers of Macon county where Mr. Dunn attained a high standing as a farmer. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Rork: William, born July 7, 1886; and Frank, born September 27, 1887, and both sons are now living on the home farm. Mrs. Rork was called away February 16, 1889, and Mr. Rork was a second time married, February 23, 1893, the lady of his choice being Miss Lizzie Breene, a daughter of Patrick and Mary (Gill) Breene. Mrs Rork's parents were born in Ireland and have been residents of this county since early in the '40s. There were five children by the second marriage: Everett, born February 16, 1895;

Wayne, born February 27, 1901; a son who died in infancy; Mary Ellen; and Madonna.

Mr. Rork is a member of the Catholic church and is an adherent of the republican party. He is a man of large capacity and sound discernment, always kindly in his relations to others and fair in his business dealings. He is recognized as a member of society who has contributed to its best and endurng interests by the example he has set, and, therefore, he enjoys in a high degree the sincere respect and increasing confidence of all who know him.

WILLIAM ADDISON HOLMAN.

This is preeminently an age of organization and cooperation. Men are bound together for mutual good, whether in the promotion of business affairs or of social or fraternal relation. William Addison Holman is a prominent representative of fraternal insurance interests, being supreme vice president of the Loyal Americans. He was born in Ross county, Ohio, September 4, 1844, and is a son of Martin and Ferly (May) Holman. The father, who was also born in Ross county, Ohio, was a farmer and moved westward to Macon county, Illinois, in 1865, settling north of Decatur on the Bloomington road in Hickory Point township. There he rented land which he cultivated for two years, after which he purchased an improved farm of eighty acres on section 26, Hickory Point township. There he made his home and greatly improved and developed the farm which he converted into highly cultivated fields. At different times he was called upon to serve his township in various offices, the duties of which he faithfully and promptly discharged. His death, which occurred October 22, 1886, was most unexpected and was the occasion of deep loss in the community where he was uniformly esteemed and respected. He was a devoted member o fthe Universalist church and his labors were an effective element in the growth and upbuilding of the organization. His widow survived him for some time and died in Louisiana when more than fifty-three years of age. In their family were nine children, seven sons and two daughters, and seven of the number reached years of maturnity, but the daughters, Mrs. Sabrina Delahunt and Mrs. Eva Samuels, are both now deceased. The living sons are William A.; Albert, a resident of Iowa; David, who is living south of Oreana, in this county; and Carey L., a resident farmer of Whitmore township.

William A. Holman pursued his early education in the district schools of his native county and afterward had the benefit of instruction in a business college, thus qualifying him for the solution of the problems which are continuously arising in connection with business transactions. At the age of twenty-one years he began farming on his own account in Hickory Point township and followed that pursuit continuously and successfully until 1888. The appreciation of his worth and ability on the part of his fellow townsmen has led to his selection for various offices. He was deputy assessor for a number of years and from 1903 until 1908 was overseer of the poor. He has also served as assessor for one year and for a considerable period has been a member of the board of

supervisors. He acted as chairman of that board in 1908. He has been a member of the board of review of Macon county and in 1910 he was elected president of the state association of supervisors, county commissioners and county clerks. The object of this association is the creation of a better feeling among officers of the various counties and the promotion of the welfare of the officers by such legislation as in their judgment will be for the better conduct of county government. Mr. Holman has served as committeeman of the republican party and has been a delegate to various county, state and congressional conventions. He has twice represented the first ward as a member of the board of city aldermen and at all times has exercised his official prerogatives in support of such measures as he deems of value and benefit in the scheme of public government and municipal and county progress.

In 1885 Mr. Holman was married in Macon county to Miss Carrie Ford, a native of Ohio, and they have a large circle of friends in Decatur where the hospitality of many homes is cordially extended them. Mr. Holman belongs to Macon Lodge, No. 8, A. F. & A. M. He gives most of his time, however, to the Loyal Americans, of which he is supreme vice president. This organization has a membership of thirty thousand and business is carried on in twenty-six different states. Much of this is done under the direct supervision of Mr. Holman who has been a factor in carefully systematizing the work of the order, in accomplishing substantial results and increasing its membership.

ANDREW J. SHOEMAKER.

Andrew J. Shoemaker, the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Maroa township, is busily engaged in its cultivation and also devotes considerable attention to the raising of stock. His birth occurred in Scioto, Ohio, in 1862, his parents being Jacob and Parmelia (Dever) Shoemaker, who were born, reared and married in the Buckeye state. The father was born in 1823, while the mother's birth occurred in 1833. Jacob Shoemaker who devoted his attention to general agricultural pursuits throughout his active business career, is now living retired in Scioto county, Ohio. His property holdings embrace a tract of forty acres of rich and productive land. At the time of the Civil war he enlisted in an Ohio regiment, fighting valiantly in defense of the Union cause. Unto him and his wife were born eleven children: Andrew J., Sarah, Abraham, Eliza and Jasper, all living; and John, George, Dora, Joseph, Ida and Minnie, all deceased.

Andrew J. Shoemaker acquired his education in the schools of his native state after putting aside his text-books worked on his father's farm. He was employed at farm labor in Ohio until about 1888, when he came direct to Macon county, Illinois, here working as a farm hand by the month for four years. During the following ten years he was engaged in the cultivation of rented land and subsequently purchased a tract of forty acres northeast of his present farm, residing thereon for eight years. On the expiration of that period he disposed of the property and bought the farm on which he now makes his home. It com-

prises one hundred and twenty acres of land in Maroa township and is well improved in every particular. In addition to cultivating the cereals best adapted to soil and climate Mr. Shoemaker also raises stock and in both branches of his business has won success.

In 1888 Mr. Shoemaker was united in marriage to Miss Generva Grady, a daughter of Joseph and Isabella Grady, who were natives of Pennsylvania and came to this state at an early day. The father passed away in 1905 but the mother still survives. Unto them were born eight children, four of whom have passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Shoemaker have three children, namely: John, whose birth occurred in 1889; Emma, who was born in 1897; and Oma, born in 1905.

In politics Mr. Shoemaker is a republican, supporting the men and measures of that party by his ballot. Fraternally he is identified with the Knights of Pythias at Maroa. In all his business dealings he has been found strictly reliable, has never been remiss in the duties of citizenship and has always followed high ideals concerning his relations with his fellowmen.

HENRY D. HEIL, M. D.

For twenty-three years Dr. Henry D. Heil has engaged in the practice of medicine in Decatur. Early in his professional career his ability won him recognition as one of the leading members of the medical fraternity in this city, and as time has passed, his reputation has spread until he is now ranked with the able physicians of central Illinois. From no professional man do we expect or exact so many of the cardinal virtues as from the physician. If the clergyman is austere, we imagine that his mind is absorbed with the contemplation of things beyond our ken; if our lawyer is brusk and crabbed, it is the mark of genius; but in the physician we expect not only a superior mentality and comprehensive knowledge, but also sympathy as wide as the universe. Dr. Heil in large measure meets all of these requirements, and is regarded by many as an ideal physician. Certainly if patronage is any criterion of ability, he ranks high among the leading members of the medical fraternity in Decatur, where he is now enjoying a large and lucrative practice. He is numbered among the worthy native sons of Decatur, his birth having here occurred in the year 1858.

His father, William Heil, was born at Obertzell, Germany, in 1820, and devoted his life to the occupation of farming. His mother, who bore the maiden name of Catherine Dinkel, was born in Germany in 1826. They became acquainted in the new world and were married in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in 1854. The father came to America in 1847 and the mother arrived in 1852. Following their marriage they removed westward to Macon county, Illinois, where Mr. Heil purchased land, and here he and his wife spent their remaining days, his death occurring in 1872, while his widow passed away in 1885. In their family were seven children: Henry, William, George, Almina, Julia, Mary and Matilda, all of whom are now living, with the exception of Mary, who died in Macon county in 1895.

DR. HENRY D. HEIL

Dr. Henry D. Heil obtained his early education in the graded and high schools and afterward pursued a college course. After completing his more specifically literary education, he spent three years in Rush Medical College, from which institution he was graduated with honors in 1887. He has also pursued post-graduate courses in Rush Medical College and at Berlin, Germany. On the 13th of March, 1887, he located for practice at Decatur, which city has since been the scene of his professional labors. He has proven well able to cope with the intricate problems which continually confront the physician in his efforts to restore health and prolong life, and justly merits the extensive practice which is accorded him. His suite of rooms is in the Masonic block.

As a companion and helpmate on the journey of life Dr. Heil chose Miss Mary Jane Bills, by whom he has three sons, Henry, George and John. On the maternal side she is descended from the early Pilgrims. Her father was a prominent farmer of this county, but was later engaged in mercantile business, and is now living retired in Decatur. Coming here at an early day, her great-grandfather entered three sections of land two and a half miles from Decatur, and some of this property is still in possession of the family.

Dr. Heil is a worthy exemplar of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to Macon Lodge, A. F. & A. M. He holds to high standards in his practice and continually promotes his efficiency by reading and investigation, so that he is a physician of liberal knowledge and broad experience. Moreover, he is a self-made man, his industry and ability constituting the measure of his advancement. He is a splendid representative of the most advanced scientific principles bearing upon his chosen life work. His research has kept him in touch with the progress of the profession; his perusal of medical journals and of the latest published work of medicine and surgery give him comprehensive understanding of what is being done by eminent representatives of the profession throughout the world. Moreover, his sound judgment enables him to quickly determine the value of any idea presented, and if he has reason to believe in its efficacy, he adopts it for immediate use in his professional service. The consensus of public opinion places him in a leading position in the ranks of the medical profession in central Illinois, and his ability certainly finds its proof in the large practice that is accorded him.

BRADFORD K. DURFEE.

The problems of finance and intricate business questions find ready solution with Bradford K. Durfee, whose ability and broad experience well qualify him for the successful conduct of the business enterprises with which he is now connected. He is one of the oldest and most prominent representatives of real estate, loans and insurance in Decatur and is now the secretary of the Mutual Home and Savings Association.

His birth occurred in Marshall, Michigan, on the 25th of March, 1838. He is a son of Nathan and Margaret (Kirk) Durfee and is a descendent in the

seventh generation of Thomas Durfee, the progenitor of the family in the new world. From his native land of England Thomas Durfee sailed to the new world, settling in Tiverton, Rhode Island, about 1662. From him the line of descent is traced down to Nathan Durfee, whose birth occurred near Fall River, Massachusetts, and who in his boyhood days accompanied his parents on their westward removal to Ohio. In that state the period of his youth was passed, his time largely being spent in Cleveland. He was married in 1837 to Miss Margaret Kirk and soon afterward started with his young wife for Michigan, their home being established in the town of Marshall, where the birth of Bradford K. Durfee, their eldest child, occurred. The father was proprietor of a furniture store in Marshall, where he resided until he sought a broader field of labor in the larger city of Battle Creek. He also conducted a furniture store there and later had a similar enterprise in Hastings, Michigan. The year 1857 witnessed his arrival in Macon county, where he established his home on the 3d of September, here remaining until his patriotic spirit, aroused by the attempt of the south to overthrow the Union, prompted his enlistment in the Civil war and he joined an Ohio regiment of which his brother, B. R. Durfee, was colonel. Previous to the outbreak of hostilities he had stanchly espoused the abolition cause.

Bradford K. Durfee was a pupil in the public schools of Battle Creek, Michigan, and following the removal of the family to Decatur on the 3d of September, 1857, he became a teacher in the district schools, following that profession through three winter terms. At that time he made his home on the old Durfee farm in Hickory Point township. The place, located northeast of Decatur, comprised one hundred and sixty acres. Soon after locating there his father planted walnuts and from the tender shoots there have grown fine large trees. Bradford K. Durfee remained on the farm until the spring of 1863, when he came to Decatur, and entered the office of his uncle, H. B. Durfee. While in that office he prepared a set of abstracts of titles of Macon county and developed a system of abstract books, of which system a large number of copyrights were disposed of. Through his work in this connection he became familiar with the history of real-estate transactions in Macon county as far back as 1829—the beginning of history here. In 1865 he was admitted to the firm of Durfee, Warren & Company and subsequent changes in the firm led to the adoption of the style of Warren & Durfee, at which time Bradford K. Durfee was associated with John K. Warren in the conduct of the real-estate and insurance business. This connection was maintained successfully until 1893 and they operated extensively and successfully in the field of real estate, negotiating many of the most important property transfers that have been made in the city.

In the meantime, in 1879, Mr. Durfee secured the re-enactment of the law for the establishment of building and loan associations in Illinois. At that time it was thought unconstitutional but the law passed, finding a place on the statute books of the state. The opposition thereto seems ludicrous at the present time, when the conduct of building and loan associations is considered an important and indispensable element in the substantial upbuilding of any city. In political circles Mr. Durfee also became connected with Decatur's welfare, having in 1884 been elected a member of the city council for a two years' term. On

the dissolution of the real-estate firm of Warren & Durfee in 1893, Mr. Durfee in January of that year accepted the appointment of commissioner to the Northern penitentiary of Joliet, Illinois. In July of the same year he resigned to accept an appointment as insurance superintendent of the state of Illinois and served until May 5, 1897. In 1907 he went upon the road as traveling representative of insurance companies, spending a year and a half in Pueblo, Colorado, and making annual visits to the city of Milwaukee, where he did auditing work. He is now the secretary of the Mutual Home & Savings Association of Decatur. He came in charge when the association was a failure and has redeemed it. He has reorganized and enlarged it, placing it upon a sound financial basis, and while it does not attempt to offer the big returns formerly common to building and loan associations, it does assure a safe and excellent investment for both the workingman and the capitalist and provides a convenient and satisfactory loan for the borrower. The present officers are: W. C. Outten, president; George R. Bacon, vice president; B. K. Durfee, secretary; and James S. Baldwin, treasurer. In addition Hiram Johnson, William S. Grubbs and Fred Norman are members of the board of directors. Mr. Durfee has contributed in large measure to the success of the undertaking since assuming management of the business as its secretary. His knowledge of former real-estate transactions in the county and his understanding of present conditions have both contributed to the success of the undertaking.

Mr. Durfee is also prominent in other relations of life. He was a charter member of the Knights of Pythias lodge and also became a member of the Knight Templar commandery of Decatur. He was reared under strong anti-slavery influences and his sympathies were with the republican party until 1872, since which time he has been an advocate of democratic principles. In 1878 he was elected as the regular democratic candidate to the thirty-first general assembly and during its sessions served on the committees on appropriations, insurance, banks and banking and labor and manufacturers. He gave close and earnest attention to the business which came before the legislature and in 1880 his course received the endorsement of the party in a second nomination. Again he was elected and became the democratic candidate for speaker of the house. To his activity and efforts along political lines several excellent results are directly traceable.

In October, 1868, in Toledo, Ohio, Mr. Durfee was united in marriage to Miss Lucy W. Hamilton of that city and their children were: Lucille, who became the wife of Louis Edward Eyman and died in February, 1907; and Edith N., who is a graduate of the Columiba College of Expression in Chicago and also studied for six months under the noted reader and teacher, Leland Powers, of Boston, Massachusetts. She has been very successful in teaching her art and also gives readings in the Christian and Presbyterian churches of Decatur.

The family are of the Episcopal faith and Mr. Durfee was a member of the building committee of the new St. John's church. He does not hold membership with the church but has always contributed generously to its support. He is a man of liberal views not only on religious questions but on all matters of vital interest and is regarded as one of the most public-spirited citizens of Decatur.

His labors in behalf of the general good have long been a tangible element in the progress and improvement of the city, while his enterprise, activity and high sense of personal honor and integrity have been the salient features in the attainment of his success in business life. He was a delegate to the convention that nominated Grover Cleveland for president in 1892.

ELLEN M. LUKENS.

The name of Lukens has for more than a half a century figured in connection with the history of Macon county. At the family home in Argenta reside Ellen M. Lukens and her sister, Mary. The father, Aaron Lukens, came to this country in 1857 and, purchasing a tract of land in Friends Creek township, there took up his abode and began farming. He opened up a farm of about four hundred acres and became a well known agriculturist and business man of his part of the state. He was a native of Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, where he was reared to mature years, and was married, the lady of his choice being Miss Anna Foulke, who was also born and reared in Montgomery county. Mr. Lukens engaged in the lumber business in the Keystone state but also followed farming there, making his home in Pennsylvania for some years or until after the birth of his children. In 1857, however, he bade adieu to the east, coming with his family to Illinois, thinking to find better business oportunities in the wide and rolling prairies of this state. Reaching Macon county, he invested in land which he converted into a well improved farm, making his home thereon for several years. He then removed to a farm near Maroa upon which he spent his last years, his death occurring there on the 3d of September, 1869. His wife survived him for about five years and passed away in November, 1873. One of their sons, William Lukens, enlisted for service in the Civil war, joining the One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry with which he went south and continued in active service with his regiment, until his death, which occurred at Youngs Point, Louisiana, June 22, 1863. His remains were brought home for burial and were interred in Greenwood cemetery of Decatur. David Lukens, another son of the family, was born upon the old homestead farm in Pennsylvania and at length succeeded to the ownership of the place. He continued in active connection with agricultural interests until 1900, when he, too, passed away and was laid to rest in Greenwood cemetery. A sister, Mrs. Margaret Smedley, who is a widow, resides in Philadelphia and has two children, Anna and Nathan Smedly. Mary is living in Argenta. Dr. Edward Lukens was also a soldier of the Civil war, serving throughout the period of hostilities with the One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. The latter located in Decatur where he married and his last years were spent in that city. Grace Lukens is now the wife of John Bixby and resides in Chicago. R. H. Lukens reached adult age but died in 1876 The youngest of the family is Ellen M. Lukens, who resides with her sister Mary in Argenta, where they own a neat and attractive home.

The parents were members of the Society of Friends in Philadelphia and reared their family in that faith. They were earnest Christian people who lived peaceable, quiet lives in accordance with the teachings of the sect. After the death of the father the family removed to Decatur, where they resided for six years, and then returned to the home farm north of Aregnta, where they lived until the spring of 1910. At that time a tract of land of thirty-five acres in Argenta was purchased, together with their present home. The deceased members of the family have been laid to rest in Greenwood cemetery of Decatur, in the beautiful and well kept family lot. The father was numbered among the early settlers here and the other representatives of the name have been well known, their substantial qualities winning for them the friendly regard and good will of all with whom they have been associated.

JOHN K. WARREN.

On the list of Decatur's honored dead apears the name of John K. Warren, whose worth as a man and citizen placed him high in public regard. All who knew him respected and honored him and his demise was the occasion of deep and widespread regret. He was born in Philadelphia on the 10th of August, 1834, his parents being Josiah and Ann (Reynolds) Warren, the former of English and the latter of Scotch-Irish descent. In his native city the son spent his youthful days and was accorded the opportunity of acquiring an academic education. He afterward engaged in farming in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, and in the year 1855 made his way to Chicago, hoping to be benefited in health. The change did not bring the desired result, however, and he decided to go south. He started as a passenger on one of the trains of the Illinois Central Railroad, which had just been completed. Stopping over night in Decatur, he found when he awoke in the morning that he was free from asthma, with which he had been seriously troubled for many months. This caused him to settle in Macon county and within a week he purchased a farm three miles northeast of the city. In the spring of 1856 he returned to take up his permanent abode here, accompanied by his mother, who spent her remaining days in Macon county.

After living on the farm for two years Mr. Warren removed to Decatur in 1858 and the following year established a real-estate and insurance office. In 1863 he formed a partnership with Henry B. Durfee and under the firm style of Durfee & Warren the business was continued until 1865, when Bradford K. Durfee was made partner. In 1868 H. B. Durfee retired from the firm and the firm name became Warren & Durfee. In 1893 Mr. Durfee retired and Mr. Warren continued the business alone until his death. The firm prepared the first set of abstracts of titles ever used in Macon county and were pioneers of copyrights as applied to abstracts of titles in the United States. Mr. Warren enjoyed good health for some years after coming to Illinois but in 1873 his old asthmatic troubles returned with violence and he spent much of the succeeding five years in California and Texas for the benefit of his health, which was greatly improved by his sojourn in the south.

Mr. Warren became deeply interested in railroad building and between 1867 and 1872 was very actively engaged in securing the building of new railway lines to important points. He was connected with the Pekin, Lincoln & Decatur now the Peoria, Danville & Evansville Railroad from the first until the trains were run over that line into Decatur He was also associated with the Indiana & Illinois Railroad, which was organized in 1853 and which is now a part of the Wabash system. He served as its president from 1868 until 1871 and was instrumental in securing the reorganization of the company, resulting in the eventual construction of the line. Through his activity in railway connections he did much to promote the interests of Decatur, for the growth of every city depends in very large measure upon its railway facilities. In 1868 he organized the Decatur Gas Light & Coke Company, of which he was president.

In May, 1866, occurred the marriage of Mr. Warren and Miss Emma Powers, of Decatur, and they were for many years well known socially in the city. In politics he was a republican and his party elected him to the office of municipal chief executive in 1867. In other positions to which he was called as well as that of mayor he served with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. In early life he was a member of the Presbyterian church, but later joined the Episcopal church, and was ever a man of honor and uprightness whose life commended him to the confidence and high regard of all. He has left his impress indelibly upon the history of Macon county and its substantial and permanent upbuilding.

ANDREW HEMINGER.

There are few men whose lives are crowned with the honor and respect uniformly accorded Andrew Heminger, but through many years connection with Illinois his has been an unblemished character. With him, success in life has been reached through close application intelligently directed. He has never deviated from what his judgment would indicate to be right and honorable between his fellowmen and himself and it is this which has won for him the esteem which is now so freely given him by all who know him. Stark county, Ohio is the place of his nativity and the date of his birth December 12, 1836. His parents were Frederick and Maria (Willard) Heminger, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, where they were reared and married. Subsequently they removed to Stark county, Ohio and in 1839 went to Wood county, Ohio, settling near Toledo, where their remaining days were passed. The father was a prominent farmer of that locality.

The boyhood and youth of Andrew Heminger were spent in Wood county, where he was reared to farm life, pursuing his education in the old-time typical log schoolhouse with its puncheon floor, slab seats and other crude furnishings. In April, 1857, he followed Horace Greeley's advice to young men and went west as far as the territory of Kansas. At that time Jefferson City, Missouri, was the terminus of the western railroad and Kansas City was a mere hamlet. There were no buildings in the levee district and no bakery in the town and at

that time Mr. Heminger could have homesteaded land within the present city limits. He remained in Kansas, however, for only about six weeks, after which he returned to Illinois, settling in Cerro Gordo, where his first work was breaking prairie with five yoke of oxen and a thirty-six-inch plow. For his service he was paid fourteen dollars per month. He continued to work as a farm hand until after the inauguration of the Civil war, when his patriotism was aroused by the continued attempt of the south to overthrow the Union and on the 11th of August, 1862, he enlisted as a member of Company K, One Hundred and Seventh Illinois Infantry. He served for three years, lacking one month, as a private and was honorably discharged July 11, 1865, at Camp Butler, Illinois, after participating in the Atlanta campaign, in the battles of Franklin and Knoxville and in other important engagements.

When the war had ended Mr. Heminger returned to Cerro Gordo and began farming on his own account. For three years he rented land and then made his first investment in property, buying at that time a modest forty acres, which, however, constituted the nucleus of his later extensive possessions. His second purchase of one hundred and sixty acres was made in 1873 and for this he paid twenty-nine dollars per acre. This farm is now within a half mile of the city limits of Cerro Gordo and is worth two hundred and fifty dollars per acre or more. About 1890, however, Mr. Heminger sold that property for seventy-five dollars per acre, which at that time was the highest price ever paid for land in his township with the exception of the price paid for a forty-acre tract. He continued to buy and sell farm lands and at one time owned four hundred and fifty-eight acres in Macon county but disposed of his holdings and in 1898 removed to Decatur, where he has since made his home. He has, however, through the intervening period continued his speculations in farm lands and also in Decatur city properties. He is now the owner of five hundred and ninety-one acres in Macon county, much of which is located near Decatur and is very valuable. He also owns three business properties, three flat buildings and various other properties and from his holdings derives a substantial and gratifying annual income. Until quite recently he has been regarded as one of the most active and prominent financiers of Decatur and although now practically living retired, he still looks after his holdings and is one of the most successful men of the city. He is a splendid type of a self-made man, for owing to the limited financial resources of his father he had to start out for himself in a very humble capacity. His business acumen, however, was soon manifest and his success is attributable in no small degree to the fact that he has recognized and utilized opportunities that other have passed heedlessly by.

Mr. Heminger has been married twice. In June, 1862, he wedded Miss Rachel Long, of Piatt county, who died in 1873. Their only child died in infancy. In 1877, Mr. Heminger wedded Miss Melinda Schoolcraft, of Piatt county, and they became the parents of four children, of whom two died in infancy. The others are Bertha F., who is the wife of Merl Cobb, of Webster Groves, St. Louis county, Missouri, and has one child, Lenora F.; and Maud, who gave her hand in marriage to Henry Wallace, likewise of Webster Groves, Missouri.

Politically Mr. Heminger is a pronounced republican, regarding the principles of the party as most conducive to good government. He has served as commissioner of highways and as assessor of his township in Piatt county but has never been an office seeker, preferring to devote his energies to his business affairs and social interests. He holds membership in Cerro Gordo Lodge, No. 246, I. O. O. F., and Cerro Gordo Post, No. 210, G. A. R., of which he has served as commander. He and his wife are members of the Grace Methodist Episcopal church and he is serving as one of its trustees. He is now in the seventy-fourth year of his age—a life of activity, enterprise and of honor. His success has never been won at the sacrifice of others' interests but has come as the result of careful investment and of marked business ability.

MORILLOW CAMERON GLASGOW.

Morillow C. Glasgow, a pioneer farmer now retired, who is a native of this state and has made his home in Macon county for forty-five years past, is now enjoying at his comfortable home in Harristown township well earned rest. He is one of the "fathers" in stock-raising and agriculture in the state of Illinois and by energy, thrift and good judgment accumulated a fortune, owning at one time six hundred and thirty acres of well improved land in Macon and Christian counties.

Mr. Glasgow was born on a farm six miles from Belleville, St. Clair county, Illinois, January 25 1833, a son of James P. and Hester (Baldwin) Glasgow. His father was a native of Kentucky and on coming to Illinois located in St. Clair county after he arrived at maturity. The mother was born in South Carolina and removed to Daviess county, Indiana, with her parents, who were early settlers of that state. Mr. and Mrs. Glasgow were married in Indiana and lived for a number of years in St. Clair county, this state, but at last located in Macon county in April, 1865.

Morillow C. Glasgow was reared in St. Clair county, where he had limited advantages of education in the little log schoolhouse of the neighborhood. He continued with his father until he was twenty-one years of age and then hired out to him by the month to herd cattle in Washington and Monroe counties. In the latter county he became the owner of a farm of eighty-five acres, but he disposed of this farm and came with his father to Macon county, where he has since lived.

In 1855, in Monroe county, Mr. Glasgow was united in marriage to Miss Adaline Keagy, and four children were born to them: Izora, who died at the age of twelve years; Isabelle Isadora, now Mrs. Younger Filson, of Decatur, and the mother of five children—Earl, Orpha, Dessie, Charles and Henry: Hester C., now Mrs. Lloyd Stanford, of South Wheatland township, this county, and the mother of one child, Lottie B.; and Alice Luella, now Mrs. Thomas Jacobs, of South Wheatland township, and the mother of one child, Floyd G. The wife and mother passed away while the family were residing in Monroe county and Mr. Glasgow was again married, May 5, 1869, in St. Genevieve county, Missouri,

MR. AND MRS. M. C. GLASGOW

the lady of his choice being Miss Maggie A. Patterson, who was born in St. Francois county, Missouri, June 2, 1848, a daughter of James and Sarah A. (Thompson) Patterson. Her father was also a native of St. Francois county and her mother came from Tennessee. Mr. Patterson was a blacksmith by trade and was an industrious and honorable citizen. Three children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Glasgow, Charles Burton, born on the home farm in Harristown township, was united in marriage to Dora Warburton. He lives on the home farm and has one child, William Carl. Leslie Lloyd, who was married to Hattie Knight, also lives on the home farm and has three sons, Garth, Floyd and Charles. Ethel Fay, who is married to Harry Bedford, lives in Decatur township.

Mr. Glasgow in his earlier years was in sympathy with the democratic party but he has voted the republican ticket ever since the Civil war. He has never held public office, as his attention has been devoted to agricultural and stock-raising interests, in which he has been a leader in his region for many years. In his earlier life he endured many of the hardships so familiar to the pioneers, when there were few roads and fewer bridges, no hotels, railroads, telegraph or telephone; when travelers cooked their own meals upon camp fires and the cloth was woven by the women of the household; and a simplicity of life prevailed of which a later generation can have little conception. Of all this he has been a part and yet, notwithstanding the objections which are made against our present form of living, if he had the power he would not have the world turn back to the conditions of the primitive days. In the evening of a busy life, Mr. Glasgow has the respect of a wide circle of friends, whose earnest wishes are that he may continue to enjoy many years of comfort and happiness.

C. A. BURKS.

Various important business concerns have felt the stimulus of the energy, sagacity and enterprise of C. A. Burks, who is now largely concentrating his attention upon the track buying grain business. One of the native sons of Illinois, he was born in Vermilion county, July 16, 1866. His early education was supplemented by a two years' preparatory course in the Illinois Wesleyan University and followed by a two years' English scientific course. Turning his attention to the profession of teaching, he became principal of the high school at Bement, Illinois, and for twelve years remained a resident of that city, although he retired from his connection with the schools after two years and purchased the Bement Register, which he published for two years. On selling the paper he purchased the J. C. McCord elevator and lumberyard and conducted a grain, lumber and coal business until 1900.

At that time Mr. Burks came to Decatur and for five years thereafter conducted a track buying grain business. He has since been engaged in the land business, handling the Yazoo valley lands, which are among the most fertile in western Mississippi. In the meantime, however, he built up one of the largest

track buying grain enterprises of the middle west under the style of C. A. Burks & Company. His business furnished an excellent market for the grain producers of central Illinois and the extent of his operations brought him to a most prominent position in the field in which he conducted his interests. In July, 1910, Mr. Burks sold his stock in the United States Brokerage Company and reembarked in the grain business with offices in the Citizens Bank building, Decatur. A man of resourceful business ability and initiative spirit, he readily forms his plans and is determined in their execution. In his vocabulary there is no such word as fail. When one avenue of opportunity seems closed he seeks out another path which leads to the desired goal and he never stops short of the objective point if persistent and honorable effort can overcome difficulties and obstacles. He was the organizer of the United States Brokerage Company and its president for four years, during which period he developed the largest general real-estate, insurance and loan business in this section of the country, handling business of this class all over the United States. He continued in active connection therewith until August 1, 1910, when he sold his interest to other members of the firm, who still continue the business.

On the 6th of June, 1900, Mr. Burks was married to Miss A. Edith Ruby, of Bement, Illinois, and a daughter of Virgil S. Ruby, who for two terms was representative of the Bement district in the state legislature, serving as a member of the general assembly when John A. Logan was elected to the United States senate. He was born in Vincennes, Knox county, Indiana, in 1834. His grandfather was a soldier of the war of 1812. His parents were natives of Kentucky and after living for some years in Indiana removed to Sangamon county, Illinois, in 1843, Virgil S. Ruby there remaining from that year until September, 1877, when he took up his abode in Bement, which was his place of residence until his death, on the 17th of March, 1888. He was one of the most influential citizens of the town and on the republican ticket was chosen representative from the thirtieth senatorial district for two terms and was a candidate for a third term when he passed away. As a legislator he served on numerous important committees, being chairman of the appropriations and agricultural committees through both terms. He was a very highly respected citizen and prominent business man, who for a long period was connected with the grain trade but in 1884 retired from active business life. He was also a leading member of different Masonic bodies, including Beaumanoir Commandery of Decatur, and his fellow Knight Templars of that organization had charge of his funeral services. His life was characterized by benevolent actions and kindly deeds as well as marked business ability and political prominence, and every movement for the social, intellectual and moral improvement of the community always found him a friend and advocate. He was married in April, 1858, to Miss Mary A. Crane, and their children were William and A. Edith.

The latter, now Mrs. Burks, is one of the society leaders of Decatur and her home is the scene of many attractive social functions. Mr. Burks is prominent in the Masonic fraternity, holding membership in Macon Lodge, No. 8, A. F. & A. M.; Decatur Chapter, R. A. M.; Beaumanoir Commandery, K. T.; and Mohammed Temple of the Mystic Shrine at Peoria. He is also a member of the Decatur Club, and he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist

Episcopal church. The varied interests of his life make his a well balanced character. He is never neglectful of the duties of citizenship or unmindful of his obligations to his fellowmen and yet he stands preeminently forth as one of the leading business men of Decatur, promoting and controlling interests of magnitude, which are a source of development and growth to the communities in which they are located as well as a factor in the attainment of individual success.

ENOS E. PENNYPACKER.

Enos E. Pennypacker, who has been successfully engaged in the butchering business at Macon for the past three decades, was born in Montgomery county, Pennyslvania, on the 13th of February, 1845. His parents, Oliver and Rachel (DeFrain) Pennypacker, were born in the years 1823 and 1824 respectively and spent their entire lives in the Keystone state. The father was the youngest in a family of six children, while the mother was the fourth in order of birth in a family of similar size. Oliver Pennypacker was a harness maker by trade and worked at that occupation until 1852, when he embarked in the butchering business, conducting a successful enterprise of that character throughout the remainder of his life. His demise occurred in June, 1890, while his wife was called to her final rest in 1892.

Enos E. Pennypacker, who was the eldest of four children, spent the first thirty-one years of his life in his native state and obtained his education in its public schools. Under the direction of his father he learned the butchering business in early life and has been identified therewith throughout his entire business career. In 1876, he came to Illinois, first locating in Taylorville, Christian county, while subsequently he took up his abode at Moweaqua. He arrived in Macon on the 21st of March, 1880, and has since been connected with the business interests of that town as the proprietor of a meat market, having built up a large and profitable trade. He owns an attractive residence in Macon and has long been numbered among the substantial and respected citizens of the community.

On the 14th of October, 1866, Mr. Pennypacker was united in marriage to Miss Jane E. Carmack, whose birth occurred on the 9th of May, 1844, her parents being Jacob and Anna Carmack, natives of Ohio. Mrs. Pennypacker was the youngest in a family of four children and by her marriage has become the mother of six, the record of whom is as follows: Ella Irene, whose natal day was February 23, 1868, is the wife of Charles Kerns, of Illiopolis, Sangamon county, by whom she has four children. Emma C., who was born April 13, 1870, gave her hand in marriage to Otto Hill, of Macon, and is the mother of two children. Webster C., born July 24, 1871, wedded Miss Maud Murphy, of Macon county, and makes his home in Decatur. The young couple have two children. Preston S., whose birth occurred January 26, 1875, married Miss Nellie Atterbury, of Macon, and now resides in Oreana, this county. He is

the father of four children. Earla Golda, born August 29, 1880, wedded Henry W. Willoughby, of Macon, and now makes her home in Springfield. Her children are two in number. William T., who was born March 20, 1884, wedded Miss Mamie Clark, of Decatur, by whom he has one child. They now reside in Macon.

Politically Mr. Pennypacker is a stanch advocate of the republican party, believing that its principles are most conducive to good government. His wife is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church and he also attends its services. He enjoys a wide and favorable acquaintance in the community, having won the kindly regard and esteem of all with whom business or social relations have brought him in contact.

WILLIAM MASON AUSTIN.

Among the substantial farmers and stock-raisers of Macon county should be named William Mason Austin, the owner of a well improved farm of eighty acres in Harristown township. He is a native of this county, born April 1, 1873, on a farm in Blue Mound township, about a mile north of the village of Boody, his parents being William C. and Ellen (Kasson) Austin. The father was born in Blue Mound township, January 1, 1843, and was a son of Squire William A. and Eleanor (Wornick) Austin. Squire William A. Austin was a native of Virginia and inherited many of the charcteristics peculiar to the old Virginia gentleman. He removed to Tennessee and later came to Macon county in the movement which tended toward Illinois for many years from the southern states. He arrived in this county some time before 1830 and settled in Blue Mound township, where he passed the remainder of his life, serving for many years as justice of the peace and being recognized as one of the leading men in his part of the county. He was a stanch democrat and was always known as a man of the highest integrity and honor. William C. Austin, the father of our subject, received his education in the common schools and in many respects followed in the footsteps of his honored father. He served as justice of the peace with great acceptance and also filled other positions of public responsibility. He departed this life in March, 1909, but the mother of our subject is still living.

William Mason Austin grew to manhood on the home farm and received a good education in the district schools, so that at twenty years of age he became a school teacher. After one year, however, he saw the importance of further training in order to guide safely the minds of the young and he became a student at the State Normal School, at Normal, Illinois, where he continued at intervals for several terms. His teaching was limited to about seven years, in the course of which time he acquired an enviable reputation as a first class teacher, a thorough disciplinarian and one who could have made a pronounced success as a pedagogue had he chosen to continue in that line. His love for the farm drew him to agricultural pursuits in preference to the school room and in the fall of 1901 he bought a farm of eighty acres, upon which he has lived since 1902, paying at the time of the purchase one hundred and ten dollars per acre. The

farm has very largely advanced in value and he has remodeled the buildings and made many improvements.

On March 30, 1899, Mr. Austin was united in marriage in Wheatland township to Miss Minnie Kater, who was born in that township, a daughter of Frederick and Elizabeth (Sasenburg) Kater who were natives of Germany and came to this country about 1868, first locating in Illini township, this county, and later in Wheatland township. There Mr. Kater attained succeess in farming and became the owner of a farm of three hundred and forty acres. He was a man of influence in his locality and served as road commissioner. In religious belief he was a Lutheran and in his daily life he attempted to put into practice the teachings of that church. He was called to his reward August 1, 1908, and his faithful companion passed away January 21, 1909. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Austin: Helen May, born May 25, 1901; and Ruth Marguerite, born September 14, 1909.

Mr. Austin was reared as a democrat, but his study of politics has led him into broader views and he is now independent, voting according to the conditions and needs which are changing from year to year and are seldom the same in all parts of the country. He is greatly interested in the improvement of the county and for six years has acted as highway commissioner, during which time he has graveled three miles of roadway, put in one hundred feet of bridge work and several concrete arches and about three-quarters of a mile of concrete sidewalk in Harristown. His wife and himself are both members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is serving as steward. By industry and a life free from reproach Mr. Austin has gained an honorable place in the minds and hearts of the people of the community and in a striking degree has he exemplified the great truth that peace, prosperity and happiness are within the reach of everyone who will rightfully apply himself and never yield to discouragement.

I. J. CARR.

Macon county can truthfully boast of well equipped farmers who were born in this county, have passed all their lives here and are now successfully demonstrating their ability in the line of agriculture or live-stock raising. Among this number may be named I. J. Carr, who is operating three hundred and twenty-five acres of land on sections 10 and 15, South Macon township. Mr. Carr was born May 26, 1871, and is a son of N. A. and Melissa J. (Rettinghouse) Carr. The father was born in St. Clair county, this state, March 29, 1838, but since 1865 and has been a resident of Macon county. He has devoted his active life to the farming interests and ten years ago retired from active work and is now living in Decatur. Mrs. Carr was also a native of St. Clair county. She was born July 11, 1840, and was called away in Febuary, 1910, at Decatur, after a long life of usefullness. She was the mother of ten children, of whom the subject was the sixth in order of birth.

I. J. Carr was educated in the public schools and as a boy grew up on the farm and became thoroughly familiar with all the details of farm life. At

seventeen years of age, desiring to see something of the great world that lay beyond the horizon, he went to Texas, where he lived for four years and was identified with the farming industry. Returning to Illinois, he began for himself upon his father's property in this county and later took up his residence at his present home upon his father's estate, where he is engaged principally in feeding live stock for the market, raising only enough hay and grain for this purpose. He has attained general recognition as one of the responsible stock feeders of this part of the county. He is also owner of a tract of one hundred and twenty acres of irrigated land in a highly promising district near Ordway, Colorado.

In 1896, Mr. Carr was united in marriage to Miss Hattie R. Sanner, a daughter of Edward B. and Naomi (Pierson) Sanner, of Shelby county, Illinois. She is the third of a family of nine children and was born March 20, 1871. Four children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Carr: Lawrence H., born November 24, 1896; Eunice H., July 20, 1898; Chauncey C., May 5, 1901; and Ruth D., November 1, 1903.

Mr. Carr holds membership in Macon Lodge, No. 467, A. F. & A. M., and is an earnest believer in the principles of brotherhood, which are the foundation of that organization. Politically he is allied with the democratic party but he has never sought public office as his energies are most applied to his duties on the farm, where his chief interest centers. In his wife he has found a delightful companion and a worthy assistant in every undertaking for the welfare of the neighborhood, their home being a center of social influence for friends and acquaintances who are here always accorded a cordial greeting.

ALEXANDER CHAPMAN TRAUGHBER.

Alexander Chapman Traughber, who has resided in Macon county throughout his entire life, covering a period of almost three-fourths of a century, has lived in honorable retirement since 1903, having won a handsome competence through the careful conduct of his agricultural interests in former years. He is one of the county's well known, respected and most properous citizens and owns eight hundred and forty acres o f rich and productive land.

His birth occurred in Mount Zion township on the 3d of April, 1834, his parents being Henry and Nancy (Smith) Traughber, who were natives of Tennessee and Kentucky respectively. The father came of German lineage, while the mother was of Irish descent. They came here about 1828, Henry Traughber being the second man to take out a marriage license in Shelby county, of which Macon county was at that time a part. He was a brick mason by trade and assisted in the erection of the first courthouse in Shelby county. Subsequently he abandoned that occupation in order that he might devote his attention to general agricultural pursuits, locating on a tract of prairie and timber land which is now the home of our subject. In the lob cabin which he erected thereon all of his children were born. Alert, enterprising and energetic, he prospered in his farming interests as the years passed by and accumulated four hundred and forty acres of valuable land. For many years prior to his death he lived

retired in the enjoyment of well earned rest. When he passed away in 1892 at the age of ninety years, the community mourned the loss of one of its most esteemed and honored early settlers. His wife was called to her final rest in the fall of 1864, when she was fifty-five years old.

Alexander Chapman Traughber attended the district schools until eighteen years of age and when not busy with his text-books assisted his father in the operation of the home farm, which has remained his place of abode from his birth to the present time. In 1855 he started out as an agriculturist on his own account, first renting a portion of his father's farm. By dint of untiring industry and unremitting energy he accumulated the capital which enabled him to buy a tract of three hundred and twenty acres, while later he extended the boundaries of his farm by an additional purchase of five hundred and twenty acres, so that his place now comprises eight hundred and forty acres. The property is highly improved in every particular, lacking none of the equipments and accessories of a model farm of the twentieth century. In connection with the tilling of the soil he was also engaged in stock-raising, both branches of his business returning to him a gratifying annual income. In 1903 he put aside the active work of the fields, having since enjoyed the rest which he so richly merits. As before stated, he still makes his home on the farm where his birth occurred but during the winter months resides in Los Angeles, California.

On the 11th of December,1856, Mr. Traughber was united in marriage to Miss Virginia C. Whitehouse, of Mount Zion township. She was born in Virginia on the 2d of January, 1839, her parents being George and Nancy (McCall) Whitehouse. The former, a prosperous agriculturist, died when his daughter Virginia was still but an infant, while the latter passed away in 1876 at the age of seventy-five years. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Traughber have been born four children, as follows: George M., whose birth occurred on the 4th of June, 1865; Judd, whose natal day was May 14, 1868; William Burt, who was born September 15, 1871; and Flaudia May, who was born June 6, 1874.

Mr. Traughber is a republican in politics and a Presbyterian in religious faith. Having lived in this country for almost seventy-five years, he enjoys an extensive acquaintance within its borders and is largely familiar with the various stages of its growth and development, relating in an interesting manner many incidents and experiences of pioneer days.

LEONA F. BOWMAN.

Leona F. Bowman, the county superintendent of schools, was born near Oakley, Macon county, December 31, 1873, a daughter of Andrew and Emma Lena (Manecke) Bowman, both of whom were natives of Ohio. Coming to Macon county in 1867, they settled on a farm near Oakley, but are now residents of Decatur. Their daughter, Leona F. Bowman, was educated in the rural schools and the normal school, and began teaching at the age of seventeen years at a salary of thirty dollars per month. That her ability was manifest during that period is indicated by the fact that in the second year she was given fifty

dollars per month. She was offered positions in the city schools but preferred to teach in the country, and did so for some time. During that period she attended different schools in the summer seasons and in 1906 she became a candidate for the position which she is now filling. Although a candidate of the minority party in Macon county, she received a majority of over two hundred votes and in office has given entire satisfaction to the public, making a great success in her administration of educational affairs in Macon county. She has created enthusastic local interests by holding spelling contests.

Miss Bowman belongs to the National Educational Association and is constantly alert to the demands and needs of the school and to efforts for the improvement and development of the educational system. Her work has indeed been of far-reaching effect and has won the approval of even the most conservative. She believes in the comprehension of each student as an individual and that every teacher should study her pupils and know just how to adapt the work to specific needs.

BRYANT L. BRASFIELD.

Among the younger representatives of farming interests in Macon county Bryant L. Brasfield is prominent. He is only now in his twenty-fifth year, yet is the owner of and successfully operates two hundred and forty-five acres of valuable farm land, pleasantly and conveniently situated about two miles north of Harristown. He has been a lifelong resident of Illinois, his birth having occurred on the 10th of May, 1886, near Sweetwater, Menard county, his parents being Thomas Howard and Cynthia (Camp) Brasfield. The father was born in the year 1829 in Madison county, Kentucky, near Richmond, and was but four years of age when his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Brasfield, removed from the Blue Grass state to Illinois, settling in Menard county, which was then largely a wild and undeveloped region. The Black Hawk war had occurred only the previous year and there were still many evidences of Indian occupancy throughout the state. Little of the native forest had been cut and much of the open land was still covered with the wild prairie grasses. It was an easy matter to obtain a farm by entering a claim from the government and the usual experiences of pioneer life were to be met with on every hand. It was amid the environment of the frontier that Thomas H. Brasfield was reared and in the public schools of Menard county he was educated. After attaining man's estate he took up farming and stock-raising on his own acount and became a prosperous representative of the agricultural interests of the community. He was a very public-spirited man and also a prominent factor in the ranks of the republican party, his opinions carrying weight in its local councils. He continued a valued resident of Menard county to the time of his death, which ocurred in 1900. He is still survived by his widow, who is now making her home in Eureka, Woodford county, Illinois.

Bryant L. Brasfield began his education in the common schools and afterward went to Springfield, Illinois, there pursuing a business course. He also

BRYANT L. BRASFIELD

spent two and a half years in Eureka College and a year and a half in the University of Illinois, devoting his time to a literary course in Eureka and to the agricultural course in the State University. He worked upon the home farm during his vacation periods and afterward resided in Eureka from September, 1904, until March, 1910. He then went upon the show circuit with Carpenter & Ross of Mansfield, Ohio, with a shorthorn herd, traveling through Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee, just for the experience. Later he purchased the farm of two hundred and forty-five acres in Macon county upon which he now resides and is here extensively and successfully engaged in breeding shorthorn cattle, having a fine herd upon his place. He also farms his land and his fields are highly cultivated. The farm presents every appearance of being cared for along the most progressive and practical lines and its substantial buildings, well tilled fields and high grades of stock indicate the owner to be one of the leading farmers of his part of the county. He took up his abode upon his present place in March, 1907, and his work is being attended by excellent results.

That Mr. Brasfield is a man of high principles is indicated in the fact that he is an exemplary member of the Masonic fraternity belonging to Lodge No. 306, A. F. & A. M., at Eureka, and also he belongs to the Christian church. The future undoubtedly holds in store for him substantial success, for he is already working his way upward along lines that promise excellent results for the future.

HENRY HAHN.

Henry Hahn, who follows the pursuits of farming and stock-raising in Maroa township, has won a gratifying measure of success in his labors in this connection. His birth occurred in St. Clair county, Illinois, on the 26th of October, 1857, his parents being John and Mary (Hirsch) Hahn. The former was born in Germany in 1830, while the latter's birth occurred in Illinois about 1835. John Hahn was a youth of fifteen when he accompanied his parents on their emigration to the United States, the family home being established in St. Clair county, Illinos. He was successfully engaged in farming throughout his active business career and is now living retired in St. Clair county. His first wife who bore the maiden name of Mary Hirsch, died when our subject was but fourteen years of age. She was the mother of five sons and three daughters, one of whom is deceased. The surviving children are as follows: Henry, of this review; John; Charles; Fred; and Anna, Rosa and Celia, all of whom the residents of St. Louis. For his second wife John Hahn chose Miss Eva Grone, by whom he has one child, Josie.

Henry Hahn obtained his education in the district schools and when not busy with his text-books assisted his father in the work of the home farm, thus early becoming familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. When twenty-six years of age he took up farming independently and the work of the fields has claimed his time and energies continuously since. In 1895, he commenced farming upon two hundred acres of land and three years later took up his abode on his present place of three hundred and twenty acres

in Maroa township, Macon county, where he is now carrying on his agricultural interests with excellent result, raising stock in connection with the tilling of the soil. He rents this property but owns a tract of eighty acres on the east, which he purchased in 1907.

On the 27th of February, 1895, Mr. Hahn was united in marriage to Miss Gusta Rosenberger, a daughter of Conrad and Kathrena (Eckert) Rosenberger, who were natives of Germany and Illinois respectively. They were the parents of six sons and three daughters. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hahn have been born five children, three of whom died in infancy. The others are: Irvin C., whose natal day was September 2, 1898; and Lena Louisa, whose birth occurred on the 25th of August, 1903.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Hahn has supported the men and measures of the democratic party, believing firmly in its principles. He has always endeavored to live at peace with his fellowmen, acknowledging the rights of others, and has manifested a spirit of consideration and kindliness that has gained him a warm place in public regard.

OLNA STANTON HIGHLY.

Among the farmers' sons of Macon county who have had the good sense to remain upon the farm and thus to add to the material wealth of the county as well as to assure themselves of a solid financial basis is Olna Stanton Highly, who was born April 4, 1864, and is a son of Henry L. and Jane (Gibson) Highly. The father was a native of Ohio, born June 12, 1835, and settled in Macon county in 1862, where he was actively engaged in farming nearly forty years, retiring to Macon ten years before his death, which occurred January 12, 1910. His wife was born in Pennsylvania, January 29, 1837, and accompanied her parents on their removal to Ohio, where she was married in 1862, her wedding trip being by wagon overland to Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Highly first lived on a farm west of Macon and one year later settled on a tract of land two miles south of the present homestead of the family. She is now living in Macon with her niece. She and her husband made many friends during their long residence on the farm and assisted to the extend of their ability in bringing about the great changes that have been witnessed in this region since the Civil war. They were the parents of two children: Olna S., our subject; and James Howard, who is now living on the old homestead in this county.

The subject of this review was educated in the common schools, but, feeling the importance of further training in order to be better prepared to meet the responsibilities of life, he became a student in a commercial college in Springfield, Illinois, where he pursued a course for six months. After laying aside his books he returned to the farm, where he applied himself with the greatest diligence, assisting his father in its operation. At twenty-six years of age he was married and removed to the place where he now resides. He inherited one hundred and sixty acres of land from his father and in 1907 purchased eighty acres adjoining, so that at the present time he has a farm of two hundred and

forty acres, which under his efficient management has been improved until it is one of the most desirable farms in South Macon township. The family residence with its surroundings forms a neat and attractive home and the entire farm reflects in its neat and well kept appearance the orderly character of its owner.

On February 5, 1890, Mr. Highly was united in marriage to Miss Gladys Combs, a daughter of Jabez and Sarah (Whittaker) Combs, the former a native of Indiana and the latter of Illinois. Mr. Combs came to this state in the early days with his parents, who lived in Christian county previous to locating in Macon county. Mrs. Highly is the eighth child in a family of twelve children and was born October 29, 1867. Three children have blessed the household of Mr. and Mrs. Highly: Lena Jane, born November 23, 1890, the wife of John Thompson, of Macon county; Lloyd A., born March 5, 1894, living at home; Myra Pauline, born March 28, 1898.

Politically Mr. Highly is independent, voting according to his judgment as to the necessities of the times. He is a strong advocate of education and for eighteen years past has served most acceptably as a member of the school board. Socially he is identified with Beacon Lodge, No. 434, Knights of Pythias, and is an active working member of that organization. He and his family are members of the Presbyterian church of Macon and are identified with every good work of the neighborhood in which they live.

B. A. SCHUDEL.

B. A. Schudel has devoted his time to public service as the postmaster of Macon for the past thirteen years, having been appointed to that position in 1897. His birth occurred in Macon on the 19th of October, 1871, his parents being John and Elizabeth (Seng) Schudel, who were natives of Switzerland and Illinois respectively. The father crossed the Atlantic to the United States with his parents in early life, the family home being established in Greene county, Illinois. He came to Macon county a few years later and has here resided continuously since. He was first employed as an insurance agent, then learned the painter's trade and subsequently embarked in the mercantile business at Macon. At the present time he is living retired in Decatur, enjoying the fruits of his former toil in well earned ease. Unto him and his estimable wife were born eight children, of whom our subject is the second in order of birth.

B. A. Schudel obtained his education in the public schools of this state and also pursued a course in Brown's Business College of Decatur. After putting aside his text-books he went west and worked on the staff of a newspaper in Lincoln, Nebraska, for four years. On the expiration of that period he returned to Macon and in 1897 was appointed postmaster of the town, in which capacity he has served continuously since. His duties in this connection have been discharged in a manner entirely satisfactory to the public and his fitness for the office is widely acknowledged.

In his political views Mr. Schudel is a republican and his fellow townsmen have called him to various positions of public trust and responsibility. He acted as mayor of Macon for one year, was alderman for two terms, served as township collector for one term and for a similar period was town clerk. Fraternally he is identified with the Masons, belonging to South Macon Lodge No. 467, A. F. & A. M., and the chapter at Blue Mound. He is also a member of Beacon Lodge, No. 344, K. P., and Macon Camp, No. 362, M. W. A. In early manhood he joined the Methodist Episcopal church of Macon and has since been one of its most active and valued members. His salient characteristics are such as have gained him the confidence and good will of all with whom he has been associated and he is well entitled to a foremost place among the substantial and representative citizens of his native county.

WALTER T. DOWNING.

Among the worthy citizens of English birth and parentage now living in Macon county may be named Walter T. Downing, a well known farmer of Harristown township. He first saw the light of day at Fish Lake, Yorkshire, England, November 15, 1862, and is a son of James and Margaret (Jubb) Downing. The father was engaged in farming, an occupation with which the ancestors of the family were for many generations identified.

The subject of this review was educated in the common schools of England and at seventeen years of age he decided to cast his lot under the American flag, his brother James, an uncle and a great uncle, Thomas Acom, having previously settled in Illinois. Accordingly he crossed the ocean and began working for his uncle by the month, continuing for about three years and in the meantime becoming familiar with the habits and customs of this country. About 1882 his parents came from their old home and are now living in Harristown township. At twenty years of age our subject began farming independently by renting land and continued until 1905 when he moved to a farm of forty acres inherited by the lady who became his wife. By industry and economy he was soon able to purchase seventy acres adjoining, for which he paid one hundred and seventy-six dollars an acre. This was at the time of the record price for farming land in this county. He has since made many improvements and, taking into consideration the advance in prices, the land is now estimated to be worth about two hundred and twenty-five dollars an acre. Mr. Downing now has a beautiful place of one hundred and ten acres, which is regarded as one of the model farms in this region.

On June 28, 1900, in Logan county, Mr. Downing was united in marriage to Miss Gertrude Davis, who was born on a farm in Niantic township, Macon county, November 27, 1878. She is a daughter of Samuel P. and Henrietta (Stout) Davis, both natives of Ohio, who emigrated to Illinois and became the owners of land in Harristown township, this county. Five children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Downing: Henrietta, born April 2, 1901; Margaret,

born December 4, 1902; Gertrude, born January 15, 1905; Irene, born December 24, 1907; and Richard Walter, born June 13, 1909.

Mr. Downing has found in his wife a worthy and sympathetic assistant. She is a valued member of the Christian church. Before leaving his native land Mr. Downing became identified with the Methodist Episcopal church, but he has never affiliated with any religious denomination since taking up his residence in Illinois. He is a stanch supporter of the republican party and socially is connected with Niantic Camp, No. 329, Modern Woodmen of America. His brethren of the order find in him a worthy and capable assistant, agreeing with many friends outside of the organization that he is a man always to be relied upon and one who has fairly earned the honorable reputation he has acquired in the county of his adption.

PETER O. BECK.

Peter O. Beck, successfully engaged in general farming and stock-raising, makes his home on section 31, Long Creek township. He is numbered among the worthy native sons of Macon county, his birth having occurred in Harristown township on the 25th of November, 1859. His parents were John and Nancy (McDaniel) Beck, who were natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio respectively, the former born on the 26th of July, 1829, and the latter in the year 1833. Their marriage was celebrated in Decatur, Illinois, in 1853. Leaving the Keystone state, the paternal grandparents of our subject removed to Ohio, whence they came to Illinois in 1839. Peter Beck, the grandfather, was an agriculturist by occupation and in 1847 he located on a quarter section of land in Harristown township, this county. He erected a house and improved his farm, devoting his energies to its operation until the time of his removal to Kansas, when he disposed of the property. His remaining days were spent in the Sunflower state. John Beck, the father of Peter O. Beck, was a lad of ten years when he came to this state with his parents and here he has resided continuously since with the exception of the period of fourteen years which he spent in Missouri. He now makes his home with our subjecet and is well known as one of the esteemed and venerable citizens of the community, having passed the eighty-first milestone on life's journey. His wife was called to her final rest in March, 1904.

Peter O. Beck attended the public schools in the acquirement of an education and early became familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist as he assisted his father in the operation of the home farm. The pursuits of farming and stock-raising have claimed his attention throughout his entire business career and have brought to him a gratifying annual income. Since 1900 he has resided in Long Creek township, where he cultivates rented land, operating the Hill estate of three hundred and five acres and also an adjoining tract of eighty acres.

In November, 1880, Mr. Beck was joined in wedlock to Miss Maria Hopkins of Macon county, her parents being William and Ann Hopkins who

were natives of Ohio and Virginia respectively. The father, who took up his abode among the early settlers of this county, followed farming as a means of livelihood. He passed away in 1897 but is still survived by his wife. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Beck have been born the following children: A. C., who is now the wife of Charles Kemp; Edna, who gave her hand in marriage to Lester Carmeau; William F., whose birth occurred November 27, 1885, and who is now a resident of Kansas; Orville E., whose natal day was February 16, 1889; Millard Vernon, who was born on the 9th of May, 1890; Fleeta L.; Maggie, who died May 7, 1904; Lester Earl, whose birth occurred February 28, 1900; and three who died in infancy.

Mr. Beck gives his political allegiance to the democracy and has ably served his fellow townsmen as commissioner of highways and also as tax collector, holding the latter office for two years. Fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America, while in religious faith he is a Methodist. He is well and favorably known throughout the community and the qualities which have made him popular are such as win confidence and command esteem in every land and clime.

GEORGE E. MOELLER.

George E. Moeller is one of the well known citizens of Decatur and a progressive business man, who is an officer in one of the important manufacturing enterprises of the city, being secretary and treasurer of the Decatur Coffin Company. He was born at Somerset, Ohio, May 1, 1858, and is a son of Otto H. and Eliza J. (Pardee) Moeller, the former a native of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and the father of Somerset, Ohio. The father was one of a family of seventeen children by two marriages, all of whom were brought up together and grew to maturity. He was engaged in the drug business in Somerset, and became one of the pioneer druggists of Decatur, removing to this city in 1859, where he died less than a year after his arrival. While in his native state he promoted a railroad through the Hocking valley, to extend from New Lexington to Somerset, and it is now a part of the system of the Pennsylvania Railroads. The mother departed this life in February, 1909, in the eighty-sixth year of her age. Six children were born to them, five of whom are now living: Mrs. O. A. Alexander, of Decatur; Mrs. A. M. Lapham, of St. Louis, Missouri; William J., of Decatur; Louis K., of Galena, Kansas; and George E., the subject of this review.

Educated in the public and high schools of Decatur, George E. Moeller began business life in the local postoffice, under Captain R. P. Lytle, as mailing clerk in 1877. After three years of valuable experience in this line he became traveling salesman for the Decatur Coffin Company and continued upon the road for about fifteen years. Having purchased stock in the company, he was elected its vice president in 1897 and upon the death of O. Z. Greene, president, in 1910, became secretary and treasurer, in which positions he has since continued. This company is one of the largest concerns of the kind in Illinois, being conducted upon the most approved business principles, so that it gives promise of steadily

increasing patronage as the years pass. Mr. Moeller has attained his present responsible position by his earnestness, unquestioned honesty and willingness to work. His first experience with the great world was as a newsboy, while attending school. In fact, he was ready for any odd job that presented and thus he made a start that carried him through to success.

On April 23, 1891, Mr. Moeller was united in marriage to Miss Laura A. Ayers, of Jacksonville, Illinois, and three children have been born to them, Helen A., George A. and Sydney D. The family now occupy a beautiful residence at No. 890 West William street. It is one of the most attractive homes in Decatur and represents in an important degree the energy and wisely directed perseverance of its owner, who has attained a deserved standing as one of the leading men of the city. In the past few years Mr. Moeller has added much to Decatur in buildings and houses, having build a dozen or more store buildings and residences at a cost of sixty thousand dollars. Socially he is identified with the Country Club. He is a valued member of the First Presbyterian church, in which he is serving as elder, and his life has been such as to commend him to the confidence and esteem of all who know him.

WILLIAM S. WHITEHOUSE.

William S. Whitehouse, a retired agriculturist of Mount Zion township, has been a resident of Macon county for almost two-thirds of a century and throughout his active business career successfully carried on the pursuits of farming and stock-raising. His birth occurred in Washington county, Virginia, on the 3d of January, 1834, his parents being George and Nancy (McCall) Whitehouse. The father was born in Ohio on the 27th of June, 1793, while the mother was a native of Virginia. In January, 1835, they took up their abode in Bartholomew county, Indiana, where the family home was maintained for eleven years or until 1846, which year witnessed their arrival in Macon county, Illinois. In the meantime, however, the father had passed away, his demise occurring in the Hoosier state in 1840. He was a tanner by trade but abandoned that occupation to become identified with general agricultural pursuits. On coming to Macon county Mrs. Whitehouse located on a farm of eighty acres, the boundaries of which she later exntended by additional purchase. She died in Macon county in 1876.

William S. Whitehouse, who was a lad of twelve years at the time of his arrival in this county, attended the district schools until fifteen years of age and then began providing for his own support by working at farm labor. In 1862 he started out as an agriculturist on his own account, purchasing one hundred and fifteen acres of land on section 6, Mount Zion township. The log cabin which stood on the property and which the family occupied for some years after their arrival here has since been replaced by a more modern structure, our subject having erected a substantial up-to-date and attractive residence. The work of the fields claimed his attention throughout his active business career and in connection with the tilling of the soil he also devoted considerable

time to the raising of stock, meeting with success in both undertakings. He is now spending the evening of life in honorable retirement, enjoying the fruits of his former toil in well earned ease.

Mr. Whitehouse has been married twice. In December, 1879, he wedded Miss Elizabeth Belle, a daughter of Andy and Lucinda Belle, of Macon county. Her father was a native of Kentucy and followed farming as a life work. William S. and Elizabeth Whitehouse were the parents of a daughter, Goldie Pearl, who died when twenty-six years of age, leaving two children: William Russell and Goldie Fern Broughton, who are twelve and ten years of age respectively. Mr. Whitehouse lost his first wife in 1882 and three years later wedded Mrs. Ellen House nee Scott, of Indiana.

Politically Mr. Whitehouse is a stalwart advocate of the democracy and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, have called him to positions of public trust. He served as assessor of Mount Zion township for five terms and for three terms has acted as a school director, ever discharging his official duties in a most prompt and capable manner. In religious faith he is a Presbyterian. He has continuously resided in Macon county since boyhood and is, therefore, familiar with its development from pioneer times down to the present, having aided in the arduous toil which brought about the wonderful transformation that is everywhere apparent in this part of the state.

HENRY C. BOWER.

More than a century ago George Washington said that farming is the most useful as well as the most honorable occupation of man, and the statement is as true today as it was when uttered. Agriculture is the basis of all success, and no nation is really prosperous that does not found its progress upon the fruits of the soil. Mr. Bower is numbered among those who are engaged in farming in Whitmore township, where he owns and cultivates a valuable tract of land adjoining Oreana, which is situated on section 9, and in its thrifty appearance gives every evidence of the careful supervision of a practical owner.

Mr. Bower was born in Scott county, Illinois, June 10, 1845, and is a son of John R. Bower, a native of Kentucky, whose father was the Rev. Jacob Bower. The latter was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, September 26, 1786, and removed from the east to Kentucky. He was a minister of the Baptist church, and became a pioneer preacher of Indiana, Illinois and Missouri. For some time he lived in Scott county, Illinois, and his last years were spent in Macon county.

Jno. R. Bower came to Illinois about 1833, settling in Scott county, four miles west of Winchester, where he purchased land and opened up a farm of about one hundred acres. He cultivated that tract for a number of years and afterward sold out. He then came to Macon county about 1855, taking up his abode in Whitmore township, where he purchased one hundred and seventy acres of land, of which ten acres were timber. He broke the sod and developed the fields and afterward added to his holdings by the purchase of an additional

MR. AND MRS. H. C. BOWER AND DAUGHTER

tract of timber land of twenty acres. For some years he lived upon the place and put fair improvements upon it. Subsequently, however, he sold that farm and removed to Clinton, Illinois, where he died on the 10th of June, 1887, at the age of seventy-six years and eight months. He had for some time survived his wife, who passed away in 1868. In their family were three sons and three daughters: J. M., now living in Pasadena, California; G. M., of Mount Vernon, South Dakota; Henry C., of this review; Malvina, the wife of J. T. Green, of White Hall, Illinois; and two daughters who are now deceased.

Henry C. Bower was a little lad of ten years when he came to Macon county, living on the farm adjoining his present home. He assisted his father in the arduous task of developing and improving the land, and gave to his father the benefit of his services until he had attained his majority. He then began farming on his own account on the place on which he now resides. He started here with eighty acres of land, which he placed under the plow and fenced with rail, wire and plank fencing. Subsequently he erected a good residence, also a large barn and substantial sheds and cribs. He likewise added to the productiveness of his fields by tiling the land, and he planted an orchard and set out forest trees, thus supplying both fruit and shade. In fact, he continued his work along progressive lines until he had developed a good farm, devoted to the raising of stock and grain. In 1873, when the Illinois Central Railroad was built through this district, he laid out the town of Oreana, giving to the railroad the right of way and every other lot along the line. He afterward laid out a second addition to the town. Investing in land elsewhere, he became the owner of two hundred and twenty-six acres in Pratt and Seward counties, Kansas, and he now has one hundred and forty-six acres in Pratt, which is an improved tract, and also forty acres in Davison county, South Dakota. He started out in life empty-handed, and his success has logically followed his perseverance, determination and intelligently directed labor.

On the 18th of July, 1875, Mr. Bower was married in Whitmore township to Miss Elizabeth Ann Shastid, a native of Pike county, Illinois, who was brought to Macon county in her childhood. Her father, J. S. Shastid, was a native of Kentucky, and on coming to Illinois settled first in Pike county and later removed to Piatt county, whence he came to Macon county. Mrs. Bower was largely reared and educated in Macon county, completing a course in the Decatur high school, after which she successfully followed the profession of teaching for ten years, becoming recognized as one of the most capable and efficient educators of the county. Not only was she a most intelligent lady, but also one whose kindly heart and cordial manner won her the friendship and warm regard of many. She died in this county September 25, 1903, and was laid to rest in Union cemetery. By her marriage she had become the mother of two children, but the first born, Albert Clark, had died at the age of four months. Rosa Olive is now the wife of Lee Ragsdale, a well known farmer of Whitmore township, by whom she has a daughter, Helen Elizabeth Ragsdale.

In politics Mr. Bower is an earnest republican, supporting the party ever since casting his first vote for General Grant in 1868. He has served as township tax collector, but has never desired office. Since 1858 he has been a de-

voted member of the Baptist church and now holds membership with the church of that denomination in Oreana, of which he served as deacon for several years and also as church trustee and treasurer. He has likewise acted as superintendent of the Sunday school for some years, and was superintendent of the home department of the County Sunday School Association for a number of years. He promoted the movement that resulted in the organization of the county association, and has ever been actively and helpfully interested in this particular branch of church work, realizing the fact that "train the child up in the way he shall go and when he is old he will not depart from it." For fifty-five years Mr. Bower has lived in Macon county and its history is, therefore, largely familiar to him. He has seen much of the growth of Decatur and the development of this part of the state, and in many ways has aided substantially in advancing the welfare and upbuilding of this section. His life, too, honorable and upright at all times, has commended him to the confidence and good will of those who know him, and as the years have passed he has made a most creditable record as a business man and citizen and in the social relations of life.

FRED KRASCHEL.

Fred Kraschel, who since March, 1908, has lived retired in Macon, was for many years actively and successfully identified with general agricultural pursuits in this county and still owns one hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land here. His birth occurred in Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, on the 27th of January, 1842. He lost his father when a little lad of about seven years and in 1856 accompanied his mother on her emigration to the new world, settling in Tonawanda, Erie county, New York. At the end of nine years he left the Empire state and in 1865 took up his abode in Hardin county, Illinois, there purchasing forty acres of land, to the cultivation of which he devoted his attention until 1871. In that year he disposed of the property and came to Macon county, buying and locating upon a tract of eighty acres. As his financial resources increased, owing to his untiring industry and capable management, he extended the boundaries of his farm by additional purchase and at the present time owns one hundred and sixty acres of valuable land in this county. In addition to cultivating the cereals best adapted to soil and climate he also devoted considerable attention to stock-raising, making a specialty of Duroc Jersey hogs. His undertakings as a farmer and stockman proved profitable and in March, 1908, he put aside the active work of the fields, having won a competence that made further recourse to labor unnecessary. For the past two years he has lived retired in Macon, enjoying the fruits of his former toil in well earned ease.

Mr. Kraschel has been married twice. In 1865 he wedded Miss Annie Sandman, of Illinois, by whom he had five children. The only surviving child, however, is Rosa, a resident of Macon county, who is now the wife of William Eckhardt and has seven children. Mrs. Annie Kraschel passed away in June,

1871, and on the 2d of January, 1874, our subject was again married, his second union being with Miss Nancy Jane Poe, who was born December 23, 1851, She was the eldest of ten children born unto Frank and Elizabeth Poe, natives of Tennessee. By his second wife Mr. Kraschel had five children, the record of whom is as follows: Melvin A., whose natal day was October 7, 1874, wedded Miss Jessie L. Bromley, of Macon, Illinois, by whom he has four children, and the family reside near Macon. Theodore F., whose birth occurred April 23, 1876, died when sixteen years of age. Ella E., born March 1, 1878, gave her hand in marriage to Charles Carr, of Missouri, and now resides near Macon. Hattie E., whose birth occurred December 6, 1884, passed away August 6, 1887. Nelson G., whose natal day was October 27, 1889, is still under the parental roof.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Kraschel has supported the men and measures of the democracy. He has served as road commissioner for a term and a half and for eight years acted as a school director, ever discharging his official duties in a most prompt and capable manner. Fraternally he is identified with Beacon Lodge, No 434, K. P. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Methodist Episcopal church of Macon, to which his wife also belongs. The period of his residence in this county covers almost four decades and he is well known and highly esteemed as a substantial and representative citizen.

H. B. WILSON.

Holding to high ideals in his profession, Professor H. B. Wilson, city superintendent of schools, has done much not only to advance educational interests in Decatur but also through published articles and volumes has stimulated interest and activity among the representatives of the profession at large. He was born in Frankfort, Clinton county, Indiana, July 26, 1874. His father, E. B. Wilson, was a farmer and educator, who engaged in teaching school for about eighteen years. He also served as county assessor for Clinton county for one term, and was identified with agricultural interests in that community. He married Miss Mary E. Norris, and for many years they were numbered among the valued and respected citizens of Clinton county, but in 1897 Mr. Wilson was called to his final rest. His widow still survives and now make her home in Frankfort, Indiana.

Professor Wilson, who is the eldest of four living children in his father's family, acquired his early education in the district schools of his native county, and afterward attended the high school of Colfax, Indiana. He was graduated from the Indiana State Normal School with the class of 1895,. and ten years later won the Bachelor of Arts degree in the Indiana University. In 1910 Columbia University conferred upon him the Master of Arts degree. All of his degrees were taken for the purpose of advancement in his work. He did not regard his education complete when he left the normal school, but improved every opportunity for progress and thus promoted his efficiency in his chosen calling.

For two years he engaged in teaching in the district schools of Clinton county, Indiana, after which he was appointed principal of the high school at Salem, Indiana, and two years later was made city superintendent of schools in Salem, filling that position for five years. For a similar period he was superintendent of schools in Franklin, Indiana, and in August, 1907, he was appointed superintendent of the Decatur City schools and clerk of the board of education. There is now under construction a magnificent high school building, the combined cost of building, grounds and equipment being two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. This will accommodate one thousand pupils and from thirty to thirty-six teachers will be employed. This work has been accomplished through his efforts alone and he certainly deserves much credit therefor. He now has charge of sixteen different schools, where are employed 147 teachers, with an average attendance of fifty-five hundred, while eight thousand are enrolled. Professor Wilson has constantly sought out new methods to improve the schools and raise the standard of instruction, and to stimulate the interest of the pupils that their preparation for life's work as secured in the schoolroom may be thorough and comprehensive.

Professor Wilson is a member of the Illinois School Masters Club, the Central Teachers Association, the Illinois State Teachers Association and the National Educational Association. He likewise belongs to the Black Cat Club, of Columbia University, which has an elective membership of only those who are considered strong in educational affairs. In addition to printing reports and courses of study written for the systems of schools where he has been superintendent, he is the author of the following articles and volumes which are certainly worthy of mention: "A Course in Nature Study for the Common Schools of Indiana"—Report of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Indiana, 1902, pp. 87-140; "School Garden Work in Indiana"—Report of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Indiana, 1904, pp. 416-428; "The Value of Physical Training in Modern Education"—The Educator Journal, Indianapolis, Vol. VI pp. 325-328, 368-371, 416-419; "The Relation of the High School Course to the Students' Life Problems"—School Review, Vol. XVI, pp. 469-474; "The Problem of Professional Training for High School Teachers"—The Western Journal of Education, Vol. III, pp. 49-60; "The Possibility of Training Children to Study"—Proceedings Fifty-Sixth Annual Meeting, Illinois State Teachers Association, pp. 173-175; "The Beginning of Medical Inspection in Illinois"—Proceedings Fifty-Sixth Annual Meeting, Illinois State Teachers Association, pp. 196-200; "Grading and Promotion of Pupils"—Proceedings of National Educational Association, Vol. for 1910; "The Motivation of the Children's Work in the Elementary Schools"—Proceedings of National Education Association, Vol. for 1910; "Some Things the Normal School Seeks to do for its Students" —Indiana State Normal School Anniversary Volume of President Parson's Twenty-five Years of Service; "Grammer Grades in a Central Building"—Schools and Home Education, Vol. XXIX, 324-325; "The Cooperative Method of Developing the Course of Study"—Master's Thesis, Bryson Library, Columbia University of New York City.

On the 10th of June, 1896, Professor Wilson was married to Miss Maude Barnes, of Michigantown, Clinton county, Indiana, and they have two children,

Dean Bruce and Harriet Maud. Professor and Mrs. Wilson are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and he belongs to the Masonic fraternity, in which he has attained the Knight Templar degree. He is found where the intelligent men of the city are wont to gather in the discussion of vital problems, and association with him means expansion and elevation.

SAMUEL SMETTERS.

The ranks of the Grand Army veterans are fast becoming thinned as one by one the old soldiers answer the last call and bivouac on the other side. Among those in Macon county who are still active factors in the world's work, however, is Samuel Smetters who for years was actively engaged in general agricultural pursuits and owned and cultivated a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Friends Creek township. He has lived in this county since 1870 and in Illinois since 1844. He was a little lad in his ninth year at the time of his arrival in this state, his birth having occurred in Fairfield county, Ohio, on the 18th of October, 1835. His father, Daniel Smetters, was a native of Pennsylvania, whence he removed to the Buckeye state and was there married to Miss Maria Kunkle, who was likewise born in Pennsylvania. In the year 1844 he went with his family to Illinois, settling in Jacksonville, where he spent the winter and later located upon a farm in that locality. Afterward Sangamon county numbered him among the representatives of its agricultural interests and there he reared his family and spent his remaining days, his death occurring in that county in 1862. His wife survived him for about ten years, passing away in 1872.

From the age of eight years Samuel Smetters, of this review, was reared in Morgan and Sangamon counties, and his experiences were those which usually fall to the lot of the farm boy who in the periods of vacation finds is necessary to aid in the work of the fields. In 1862 the critical condition of the country aroused his patriotic spirit and he enlisted at Springfield, joining Company B of the Tenth Illinois Cavalry, with which command he went south to Missouri and later to Arkansas. He was first under fire at Little Rock and was also engaged in scouting duty in that locality. He likewise participated in the battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, and was engaged with the army in the movements in the southwest for some time. Following the surrender of General Lee and the cessation of hostilities he was honorably discharged at New Orleans, Louisiana, on the 10th of June, 1865.

Immediately thereafter Mr. Smetters returned home and quietly resumed the pursuits of farm life, working on a farm with his brother for two or three years. In 1870 he came to Macon county, settling in Friends Creek township, where he purchased two hundred and forty acres of land. This was a partially improved tract of which he afterward sold eighty acres. His attention was then given to the cultivation and further development of the remaining one hundred and sixty acres in the midst of which he erected a comfortable residence and also built good barns and sheds, thus affording ample shelter for grain and stock. He also divided the farm into fields of convenient size by well

kept fences and added to the productiveness of his land by tilling. The crops which he gathered indicated his intelligent methods of cultivating the fields and he continued his work with good success until 1902, also raising and feeding stock in addition to cultivating the crops. He made a specialty of raising and fattening hogs, selling a large number each year. In 1902, however, he leased his farm and purchased a home in Argenta where he has since resided. After renting his land for six years he concluded to sell, disposing of the farm in 1908.

On the 5th of March, 1873, in Macon county, Mr. Smetters was married to Mrs. Priscilla Jimison, nee Anderson. She was a widow and had two children by her former marriage: Henry L. Jimison, now of Colorado; and Ellen, the wife of C. F. James, also living in that state. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs Smetters has been blessed with a son and daughter: George W., who is married and also makes his home in Colorado; and Eliza, the wife of John Westerman, a farmer of Whitmore township, Macon county.

While at national elections Mr. Smetters votes for the candidates of the republican party, he does not consider it incumbent on him to vote for its local candidates and in exercising his right of franchise supports the men whom he believes best qualified for office. While on the farm he served as road commissioner and was also a member of the school board for eighteen years. He has practically been a lifelong resident of Illinois and is greatly attached to the state, the development of which he has largely witnessed. He has seen its towns grow into flourishing cities, its lands taken up and improved, while year by year the work of its agriculturalists has caused it to forge ahead so that today Illinois leads other states in many respects. At all times Mr. Smetters has been a careful and conservative business man, trustworthy in his dealings, loyal in his citizenship and faithful to the duties of home and friendship.

GEORGE S. PHILLIPS.

George S. Phillips, who since 1909 has been employed by the Ilinois Central Railroad as station agent at Macon, was born in this county on the 22d of January, 1883, his parents being Robert N. and Jennie (Slack) Phillips, natives of Ohio and Illinois respectively. The father, who was the third in order of birth in a family of seven children, obtained his education in the public schools of the Buckeye state and after putting aside his text-books learned the painter's trade in Cincinnati, working at that occupation throughout almost his entire business career. In 1862 he enlisted for service in the Union army as a member of Company B, Seventeenth Missouri Volunteer Infantry, remaining with that command for three years and being mustered out at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in May, 1865. He participated in the battle of Pea Ridge but his regiment was principally engaged in fighting bushwhackers in Missouri and Kansas. At the present time both he and his wife are living in Macon, Illinois, and they are well known and highly esteemed throughout the community as people of genuine personal worth.

George S. Phillips, who is the eldest of three children born unto his parents, attended the public schools of Macon and completed the high school course in 1902. Immediately afterward he began the study of telegraphy with the agent at Macon and before the expiration of a year was employed by the Illinois Central Railroad as operator at Litchfield. He worked all over the Springfield division of that company until 1905, when he was assigned regularly as operator at Assumption, Illinois there remaining until 1909. In that year he was appointed agent at Macon and has since held the position, his courtesy and obliging manner toward the patrons of the road and his careful watchfulness over the interests of the company which he represents making him a valued employe.

In 1906 Mr. Phillips was united in marriage to Miss Flora Hofmann, of Clinton, whose birth occurred on the 7th of March, 1883. They now have three children, namely: Leone whose natal day was September 5, 1907; and Leah and Leota, twins, who were born on the 24th of October, 1908.

When national questions and issues are involved Mr. Phillips supports the democracy but at local elections casts an independent ballot, voting for the candidate whom he believes best qualified without regard to party affiliation. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Presbyterian church of Macon, with which his wife is also identified. He enjoys a wide and favorable acquaintance throughout the community and his many friends believe that a bright future lies before him.

ECKHARDT C. STEIN.

Eckhardt C. Stein, president and general manager of the Decatur Model Laundry, in which connection his business enterprise and sagacity have been instrumental in building up a business of large and profitable proportions, was born in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, on the 4th of October, 1858. His parents, Henry and Christina (Weyfahrt) Stein, were natives of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, and in their youth crossed the Atlantic to Canada, where they were married in Waterloo. Later they removed to their country home in North Easthope township of Perth. The father was a successful business man, conducting an extensive business as a general builder and contractor, engaging largely in brick and stone construction. The family numbered two daughters and three sons, of whom the youngest died in infancy. The parents are now residents of Berlin, Canada, and the father, having retired from business, is spending his days quietly in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil.

After attending school until seventeen years of age, Eckhardt C. Stein began learning the furniture finishing business, which he followed for four years, when he turned his attention to the miller's trade at Wellesley, Waterloo county, Canada. The year 1884 witnessed his arrival in Decatur and for a year thereafter he worked in a furniture factory but at the end of that time embarked in business on his own account in connection with William Lewis, establishing a feed store. After he became a partner of B. A. Brookshire, in the laundry business at No. 147 South Water street. This relation was maintained for two

years, when Mr. Brookshire sold his interest to H. F. Ehrman, who sometime afterward also purchased the interest of Mr. Stein. The latter then became associated with John H. Rainey and they purchased a laundry, owned by the firm of Fleming & Company. Later F. H. Whitmer became owner of a laundry at No. 147 South Water street and Messrs. Stein, Rainey & Whitmer consolidated both plants under the name of the Decatur Model Laundry Company, located at its present quarters. He is now president and general manager of the company. After the retirement of Mr Rainey the business was incorporated October 28, 1899, and was reorganized and reincorporated on the 26th of October, 1900. Over fifty people are now employed and the laundry is the largest in the city. It has been built up chiefly through the efforts and business ability of Mr. Stein in his capacity as president and general manager, and the company today has a most complete and well equipped plant, while the excellence of the work turned out insures a continuance of a liberal patronage. Mr. Stein has been very successful in his business life, for he started out empty-handed and is today not only at the head of an extensive industrial enterprise but is also the owner of much valuable real estate, including a nice home at No. 1035 West Main street.

In August, 1887 occurred the marriage of Mr. Stein and Miss Magdalena Fretus, of Argenta, whose parents, William and Magdalena (Getz) Fretus, were well-to-do people of that locality. They were natives of Germany and became early residents of Macon county. The father is now deceased but the mother still survives and makes her home in Decatur. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Stein have been born a son and four daughters: Martin, who is now assisting his father in the laundry; Emily, Beatha, Lauda, and Paula, at home.

The parents are members of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran church, in the work of which they are actively interested, contributing liberally to its support. In politics Mr. Stein is republican, for he believes that he finds in the principles of the party platform the best elements of good government. He has now resided in Decatur for more than a quarter of a century, within which period he has firmly established himself in a creditable and enviable position as a capable and successful business man.

FREDERICK J. WALTER.

Industrial activity in Decatur finds a worthy representative in Frederick J. Walter, conducting a general contracting business, his work including cement walks, steps and cellar floors, while making a specialty of concrete block work. His ability in this direction and his business integrity have brought him a gratifying patronage that crowns his labors with substantial success. He was born in Clermont county, Ohio, July 19, 1869, and is a son of John and Martha Walter. The father, a native of Kentucky, was of German lineage and the mother was born in Germany. The father devoted his life to commercial pursuits, conducting a general mercantile store at Batavia, Ohio, where he established his home on his

FREDERICK J. WALTER

removal from Kentucky about 1850. He died when his son Frederick was but a year old, and eighteen months later the mother also passed away.

The boy, thus left an orphan, was taken to the German Lutheran Orphan Home at Cincinnati and while there living attended the public schools but pursued his studies only to the age of twelve years, when he was taken to a farm, whereon he remained for five years, working diligently in the fields throughout that period, his compensation being one hundred dollars in money, his board and clothes. However, he remained two more years in active farm work and afterward was employed in various positions in Cincinnati during a period of six months. The year 1884 witnessed his arrival in Decatur. He came to Macon county to work on the farm of John Ullrich, who owned a large place near Lovington and who was a relative of Mr. Walter's mother. He remained in Mr. Ullrich's employ for two years and then returned to Decatur, where he was employed in conection with cement and concrete work. After two years he went to Birmingham, Alabama; and was employed for six months in the large roller mills located near that city. Afterward in Nashville, Tennessee, he did cement and concrete work for the Nashville Roofing Company, with which he was connected for a year and a half, when he became a resident of Richmond, Virginia, where he worked for two years at tiling and roofing. He was next at Charlottesville, Virginia, where he established and conducted a concrete contracting business. In this he met with success during the three years of his residence there, after which he returned to Decatur.

The purpose of his visit to this city was to wed Miss Josie Rich, whom he married on the 22d of February, 1894. She is a daughter of Jesse B. Rich, a well known minister of the Christian church now living retired. There are two children of this marriage, Loraine E., born February 6, 1897; and Harold B., born August 13, 1899.

After the wedding festivities were over Mr. Walter returned with his bride to Charlottesville, where he continued in business for two years, and then came again to Decatur, where he purchased a photographic studio, which he conducted for about five years. He then sold out to a Chicago firm and turned his attention to general contracting and the manufacture of concrete blocks. In this he has been very successful and has erected many residences and other buildings from concrete blocks of his manufacture. He has also built frame and brick residences, which he sells on the easy payment plan, and as a speculative builder he has contributed not only to his own success but has also enabled many to gain homes of their own through the plan which he arranges for payments. He has done much work in laying cement walks, steps and cellar floors and the liberal patronage accorded him is proof of his ability as well as business integrity. His prosperity also indicates close application and determination, diligence and careful management on his part, for he started out in life empty-handed and with few of the advantages that most boys enjoy. He is now the owner of considerable real estate in Decatur.

Mr. Walter belongs to the Masonic fraternity, having joined Jefferson Lodge in Charlottesville, Virginia, which is one of the oldest Masonic lodges in the United States. He likewise holds membership with the Royal Neighbors and the White Cross and his wife is an enthusiastic memebr of the Eastern Star and

White Shrine. They belong to the Edward Street Christian church, in which he is serving as a trustee, and his political allegiance is given to the republican party. His influence has always been on the side of progress, reform and improvement, and in a quiet but nevertheless effective way he has contributed to the moral and political as well as the material welfare of his adopted city.

JAMES McLAUGHLIN HILL.

James McLaughlin Hill, deceased, who for many years was prominently identified with the farming interests of Macon county and owner of six hundred and eighty acres of land in Harristown township, was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, September 15, 1821. He was a son of George and Eliza (McLaughlin) Hill and came to Illinois in his boyhood with his parents, who settled on a farm near Ottawa. Here he grow up and became acquainted with the operations of the farm, gaining such education as was available in the rude log schoolhouse of the pioneer days. After arriving at manhood he removed to Morgan county and there on December 28, 1845, he was married to Miss Martha Helen Hoagland, who was born near Lexington, Kentucky, June 13, 1827. She was a daughter of Martin and Maria (Conover) Hoagland and came in her childhood to Morgan county with her parents, where her father engaged in farming. At the time of her marriage to Mr. Hill she was owner of land which she inherited from the family estate. This land they disposed of and Mr. and Mrs. Hill then removed to Cass county, locating near Little Indian. Not being entirely satisfied with the conditions in Cass county, Mr. Hill visited Macon county in the winter of 1863-64 and purchased six hundred and eighty acres of land, which became the family homestead. This land he purchased from Walter Turner, who had in 1859 built a barn of three stories, one hundred and forty feet in size, and also a residence, both of which structures are now standing. Some time after arriving at his new home Mr. Hill remodeled the residence, adding one more room and making it one of the most attractive homes in the neighborhood. Here he continued as a general farmer and as a breeder of shorthorn cattle until 1867, when he was called from earthly scenes. Although he departed this life more than forty years ago he is remembered as a man of upright character, industrious, enterprising, large hearted and a friend who never betrayed a trust. He was an upholder of the democratic party but never sought public office, as his energy was devoted to his family and his business. He was an earnest and sincere member of the Christian church and by his useful life set an example indeed worthy of emulation.

Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hill, the eldest of whom, Maria Eliza—named after her two grandmothers—was born October 15, 1846. She became the wife of John D. McGuire and for a few years lived on the home farm and was the mother of three children. Maude, who married Jesse E. Gouge and lives in Alberta, Canada, is the mother of two children: Roy Hill, who married Clara Tousley, and was a railroad man, who lost his life in a railway

accident and left three children; and Claude McLaughlin, who married Ione Doyle and now lives in Webster City, Iowa. George Martin, the second child of Mr. and Mrs. Hill, was born March 22, 1855, and died at home at the age of twenty-nine years. Helen, the third child, was born in Cass county, April 15, 1860. She received a good education, as did her sister and brother, being a student for three years at the University of Illinois, the sister and brother attending Eureka College. On January 15, 1884, she became the wife of George F. Towne, a native of Danvers, Massachusetts, where he was born November 6, 1858. He is a son of Daniel and Pauline (Ferguson) Towne and was reared to the age of sixteen in his native state, when he came to St. Louis and joined his brother, a manufacturer of shoes in that city. Being an ambitious young man and desirous of advancing as rapidly as possible, he learned the trade of shoe cutter in his brother's shop. Later he visited another brother in Champaign county, this state, where he became acquainted with farming life, and from the farm went to Harristown as clerk for another brother of the family. It was while acting in this capacity that he chose a life companion and he and his wife took up their home upon the old homestead which she inherited from her father. One child, Laura, has come to brighten the home of Mr. and Mrs. Towne. She was born December 10, 1888, and was graduated from the Decatur high school in 1906. She then spent three months at the National Park Seminary at Forest Glen, Maryland, near Washington, D. C., and in February, 1910, entered Millikin University and expects to complete her collegiate education in the University of Wisconsin.

Mr. Towne is at the present time acting as salesman for the Peoria Drill & Seeder Company of Peoria. He is an adherent of the republican party and the family hold membership in the Christian church at Harristown, of which Mr. Towne was formerly deacon. He is also a member of Summit Lodge, No. 431, A. F. & A. M., at Harristown, and has served as representative of the lodge in the grand lodge three years. He is greatly esteemed not only by his lodge brethren but by many friends whom he has made as a business man and citizen.

HENRY MARTIN.

Many brave men who wore the blue when the Union was in danger are yet with us although nearly half a century has elapsed since the great conflict began which involved four years of terrific contest and a vast sacrifice of human life. Many of these soldiers left the farm like Cincinnatus of old, returning to the plow after peace again spread her wings over the land. Among the number was Henry Martin, who is now living retired in this county and who is numbered among its honored citizens. He was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, in September, 1838, and is a son of William and Comfort (Hopkins) Martin, both of whom were natives of Ohio. The father was born in 1800. He lived for a number of years in Circleville, Ohio, engaging in the commission business, but later moved with his family to Cincinnati and in 1849, came to Illinois, where

he dealt in land and grain. He continued in this state until his death in 1879. Mrs. Martin was born in 1803, and was the mother of eight children three of whom are now living: William, Henry, and Mrs. Jane Johns.

The subject of this review was educated in the pay schools of Ohio and came with his parents to this state when he was twelve years of age. Here he grew to manhood and became interested in the management of different farms with which his father was connected. On the 21st of April, 1861, he enlisted in the Eighth Illinois Infantry, and in September of the same year reenlisted in Company I, Seventh Illinois Cavalry, continuing in the field until he was discharged for disability in October, 1862. Returning home, he became restored to health and in September, 1863, rejoined Company I, Seventh Illinois Cavalry, under Colonel William Pitt Kellogg, serving in many important engagements in the south, and he was honorably discharged November 4, 1865. Resuming operations as a farmer, in which he attained a commendable degree of success, he finally took up his residence upon the father's farm in Hickory Point township, where his father had erected a dwelling and outbuildings and where our subject set out trees and hedges. Here he continued until about 1900, since which time he has rented most of the farm and is enjoying a well earned rest.

In February, 1871, Mr. Martin was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Colladay, a daughter of Jacob W. and Julia (Stull) Colladay, both natives of Philadelphia, who came to this state and settled in Macon county. Six children of Mr. and Mrs. Colladay are now living.

Mr. Martin has been a lifelong supporter of the republican party, believing that the party which was mainly instrumental in saving the Union is best adapted to perpetuate the principles upon which the republic is founded. For the past six years he has filled the office of justice of the peace, exercising a rare judgment in his official capacity, which has met the approval of the entire community. Socially he is identified with Decatur Post, No. 141, Grand Army of the Republic. He is enjoying a prosperity which is the result of many years of careful management and which should be the lot of all who practiced self-denial in earlier years, thus accumulating a competence for later life. A public-spirited citizen, Mr. Martin is respected by the people of the entire region where he is known. He is largely a self-made man, and as he can always be depended upon to do exactly as he promises, he justly merits the confidence of all who know him.

CHARLES EDWARD LEONARD.

Charles Edward Leonard, a respected farmer and live-stock raiser of Harristown township, Macon county, was born on a farm near Illiopolis, Illinois, March 1, 1862. He is a son of John and Rhoda (Humphrey) Leonard, the former of whom was born March 9, 1829, in Roanoke county, Virginia and came to Illinois in 1852, settling in Sangamon county. He lived for a time near Mechanicsburg, but acquired near Illiopolis a tract of land which was very wet and, therefore, useless for farming purposes. In order to remove the difficulty he sent to

Piatt county for oxen and plows by means of which he was able to make a ditch and the land became as productive as any in the county. Mr. Leonard was married in his native state before going westward and was accompanied on his journey by his wife and brother Samuel. He became highly successful in his farming operations and was the owner of seven hundred acres of land where he conducted agriculture and live-stock raising upon an extensive scale. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs Leonard, seven of whom grew to maturity: Virginia Ann, living in Illiopolis who married Johnson Noel, now deceased, and has six children; Mary Catharine, who married Henry Fait and became the mother of four children, and who also lives in Illiopolis; John F., a resident of Roodhouse, this state, who married Nancy Thomas and is the father of ten children; George D. living near Illiopolis, who married Sarah Coleman and is the father of six children; Charles Edward, the subject of this review; Emma Josephine, living in Illiopolis; and Jessie Lee, living near Illiopolis, who married Claude Fryer and has become the mother of four children. Mr. Leonard the father of the family, was an unholder of the principles of the democratic party but never sought public office. He was a good and upright citizen and a stanch friend of education, donating ground for the district school which is now called the Leonard school. Religiously he accepted the doctrines of the Methodist Episcopal church of which he was an earnest member. He was called from earthly scenes in March, 1910, his faithful wife having departed in February, 1908.

Charles E. Leonard was reared upon the home farm and received his education at the country schoolhouse. After laying aside his books he continued to work upon the farm and later rented land of his father and for eighteen years farmed a portion of the old homestead. In February, 1904, he moved to his present location, on section, 18, Harristown township, where he owns one hundred and sixty acres which he purchased at one hundred and thirty-five dollars an acre. He also owns an interest in one hundred and sixty acres of land near Illiopolis and is recognized as one of the efficient and successful farmers of the township, a man of marked energy and ability who could have succeeded in any thing that would have engaged his attention.

On July 16, 1887, Mr. Leonard was happily married at Springfield, Illinois, to Miss Hannah Collins, who was born in Springfield February 7, 1869. She is a daughter of Michael and Margaret (Desmond) Collins. The father was born in County Cork, Ireland, and the mother at Waterford, Ireland. Both came to America when grown and in New York they were married, locating in Springfield soon afterwards. Mr. Collins was identified for some time with the railroad business but became interested in the dairy business and prospered, acquiring a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Sangamon county. Mrs. Collins was called away March 18, 1901, but her husband is now living with his daughter near Niantic. Eleven children have blessed the household of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard: Charles Edwin, who was born October 11, 1888, and is now assisting in the work of the farm; Margaret Rhoda, born May 1, 1890, a graduate of the high school and also a student for two terms at the State Normal School and two terms at Millikin University, being now a popular teacher in the country schools; Jessie Lee, born November 6, 1892, also a teacher and a graduate of the high school and a student for two terms at Millikin Univer-

sity; Herbert, who was born January 29, 1895, and died at the age of two years, nine months and twenty-six days; Paul, who died at the age of twelve years, in 1909; John Curtis, born June 28, 1899; Erma Josephine, born July 31, 1901; Lucille Esther, born March 19, 1903; Mary Helen, born March 27, 1905; Harold Eugene, born July 22, 1907; and Carl, born October 27, 1909.

Mr. Leonard has been a lifelong democrat and cast his first presidental ballot for Grover Cleveland in 1884. He has not sought political honors, but he has served most acceptably as school director of his district and for five years acted as road commissioner of Sangamon county, during which time he assisted very materially in improving the roads of the county. Socially he is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, of Illiopolis, having been a charter member of that organization. He is also identified with Niantic Lodge, Woodmen of the World. Mr. Leonard has proved in all the relations of life trustworthy in the highest degree and as a citizen has been patriotic and public-spirited, devoting to the duties of public office the same interest that he bestows upon his private affairs. In his wife he has found a worthy assistant and loving companion whose presence and example have been to her husband and family an unfailing source of comfort and happiness.

CHARLES WILSON MOFFITT.

Charles Wilson Moffitt, an enterprising and properous agriculturist of Decatur township, resides on a well improved farm of one hundred and ninety acres on section 16. His birth occurred in Decatur, Macon county, Illinois, on the 9th of June, 1858, his parents being David C. and Eva Catherine (Wilson) Moffitt, who were natives of Brownsville, Pennsylvania, and Circleville, Ohio, respectively. The father was the third in order of birth in a family of five children, while the mother was the second child born in a family of six children. Mr. and Mrs. David C. Moffitt came to Illinois in 1854, first locating in Piatt county, where they remained for two years, on the expiration of which period they took up their permanent abode in Macon county. The father of our subject, who was a brick mason and contractor by trade built the first brick structure ever erected in Decatur. He successfully carried on business for a number of years or until the time of his retirement in 1896. During the Civil war he acted as quartermaster of the supply station at Decatur. His political allegiance was given to the democracy and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, honored him by election to positions of public trust and responsibility. He acted as city alderman for three terms and for one term acceptably served as mayor of Decatur. Fraternally he was identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He passed away on the 1st of March, 1898, his death being occasioned by heart failure. His widow still survives and makes her home with her son. She also has four daughters, the record of whom is as follows: Ida, who was born April 26, 1854, gave her hand in marriage to Henry May, of Decatur, and passed away in 1878. Her only child, a son, died in Oklahoma in December, 1893. Carrie E., whose natal day was July 8, 1856, wedded Andrew

Dempsey, of Decatur, by whom she has three children. Annie, who was born March 6, 1860, is the wife of John I. Hanks, of Harristown, Illinois, and has one daughter. The other sister of our subject died in infancy.

In his youthful years Charles W. Moffitt attended the public schools of Decatur and after completing his education learned the brick mason's trade under the direction of his father, working in partnership with him until the latter's retirement. He continued in business alone until 1905 and then took up his abode on his present farm of one hundred and ninety acres in Decatur township, which he had purchased in association with his father in the spring of 1894. During the past five years he has devoted his attention to the pursuits of general farming and stock-raising, making a specialty of Poland China hogs, South Down sheep and shorthorn and Jersey cattle. He has won a gratifying measure of success in the conduct of his agricultural interests and is widely recognized as a substantial and representative citizen of the community.

On the 20th of November, 1894, Mr. Moffitt was united in marriage to Miss Grace Towle. Her parents were Frank P. and Florence (Sprague) Towle, natives of Virginia. They came to Illinois in pioneer times and located in Macon county. Mrs. Moffitt has one brother, Ralph Towle, who belongs to the United States army and lives at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Mr. Moffitt is a republican in politics and is now capably serving as one of the highway commissioners of Decatur township. His fraternal relations are with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Fraternal Order of Eagles at Decatur. His wife is a faithful member of the Methodist church and he likewise attends its services. They are well and favorably known throughout the county in which they have spent their entire lives and the hospitality of the best homes is cordially extended to them.

WILLIAM HENRY MATHIAS.

The man who starts on his business career with nothing to depend upon but a good constitution and his own native courage and ability is almost invariably the one who wins. He develops his inherent powers and without any effort on his part is justly respected by his neighbors and acquaintances. It is evident that William H. Mathias, of South Macon township, belongs to this class of men. He has worked his way from the foot of the financial ladder to a position of independence. It was a long, hard climb, but he had the grit and perseverance and when these elements are associated with patience and good management the end is assured.

Mr. Mathias is a native of Illinois, born in Moultrie county, August 30, 1857. He is a son of Jacob and Nancy (Evans) Mathias, who came from Ohio to this state in early days and settled in Moultrie county. At the age of seventeen the son was left to care for himself, the father having been called away and the mother, yielding to her sorrow, departed this life six days later. It was, indeed, a severe blow for a boy just approaching manhood, but the world with

all its attractions lay before him and he bravely undertook the responsibility of forging his way through the difficulties with which he was surrounded. He began by working as a farm hand, continuing until he arrived at the age of twenty-eight years, when he was married and began farming on his own account. Aften fifteen years of close application and good management he bought the farm on which he now lives in 1900 and has since engaged in general farming and stock-raising with a success which is well deserved, as he has brought to his work an energy and ability meriting generous returns. His farm of one hundred and twenty-three acres is one of the neatest and best appointed places in his part of the county, and he has reason to be proud of the reputation he has attained in the neighborhood as an up-to-date farmer and public-spirited citizen.

In 1885 Mr. Mathias was united in marriage to Miss Delilah Cotner, a daughter of Judd and Jane (Adam) Cotner. She is the eldest child of a family of seven children. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Mathias has been blessed by the arrival of four children: Elmer, born in 1886, who married Miss Essie Manly, of Macon county, and is living in this county; Thomas, born in February, 1889, living at home; Clyde, born in July, 1896; and William, born in July, 1901.

Politically Mr. Mathias is a sound democrat and is a strong believer in the ability of the democratic party to conduct the ship of state through any breakers that may appear. Although his attention is largely given to his own affairs, his ear is always open to any call appealing to his patriotism or his sympathies and no man is more willing to assist the beginner in life's battle than the subject of this review, who himself knows the obstacles that lie in the way.

SAMUEL TROUTMAN.

For almost a half century Samuel Troutman was a resident of Macon county and practically all of his life was spent in carrying on agricultural pursuits, so that his labors in this direction contributed much to the substantial development and improvement of the section in which he so long made his home. He was born on the 1st of March, 1843, in Fulton county, about twenty miles from Logansport, Indiana, a son of Peter and Mary (Bruce) Troutman.

The schools of the Hoosier state afforded Samuel Troutman his educational privileges and by improving these he qualified for the duties of life. He remained in his native county until nineteen years of age, when, his patriotic spirit aroused at the outbreak of the Civil war, he offered his services to the government, becoming a member of Company B, Sixteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. While at the front he made a most creditable military record, discharged his duties in most loyal manner. When hostilities had ceased he joined his parents in Decatur, to which city they had in the meantime removed. He remained under the parental roof for a short time but on the 10th of January, 1867, established a home of his own by his marriage to Miss Elizabeth F. Bear, of Decatur.

MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL TROUTMAN

Following their marriage the young couple took up their abode upon a farm near Bearsdale, Macon county, Mr. Troutman having purchased a tract of one hundred and sixty acres. For forty-five years he was actively engaged in the further development and improvement of that place and his labors brought to him a most gratifying annual return. He lived to witness many changes in this section of the county as the old fashioned farm utensils were replaced by the more modern machinery and the work of progress and improvement was carried on in other lines, and Mr. Troutman was quick to adopt any new method or idea that tended to better farm work and also add to the material advancement of the community. After spending forty-five years on the farm, he bought grain at Bearsdale for sixteen years. He then traded for a nice home in Decatur, at No. 906 West Macon street, and there took up his abode to spend his remaining days in honorable retirement. He, however, retained possession of his farm property, from which he derived a good annual income.

Qualified to wear the Grand Army button, Mr. Troutman never ceased to feel a deep interest in his army comrades and was a valued member of Dunham Post, No. 141, at Decatur. He was a republican in his political views, while his religious faith was indicated by his membership in the First Methodist Episcopal church and his life was ever guided by its principles. He passed away June 17, 1910, after reaching the sixty-seventh milestone on life's journey, leaving to his family not only the substantial rewards of his labor and keen sagacity but also the priceless heritage of an example that is indeed worthy of emulation. He is survived by his widow, one son and one daughter. The son, Frank S. Troutman, is married and has one daughter and two sons. He resides on the old home farm in Macon county. The daughter, Mary Etta, is the wife of A. J. Conover, who is a farmer of this county.

WILLIAM H. KILE.

The enterprising town of Argenta finds a worthy representative of its business interests in William H. Kile, who for the past five years has been proprietor of a general mercantile store, in which he carries a large and well selected line of goods that finds favor with the public as shown in the liberal patronage which is accorded him. What he undertakes he carries forward to successful completion and his business plans are well formulated and promptly executed.

He was born in Macon county, January 22, 1869, and is a son of Isaac W. Kile, whose birth occurred in this state in 1840. The grandfather, Josiah Kile, was a native of Ohio and became one of the pioneer residents of Macon county, settling here when central Illinois was largely an undeveloped and unimproved region. There were great stretches of land that were still unclaimed and uncultivated, while the timber was uncut and the streams unbridged. Josiah Kile purchased one hundred and sixty acres upon which not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made, but with characteristic energy he began its

development and soon the wild prairie grasses were supplanted by crops of grain.

Isaac W. Kile was reared upon the old homestead in this county amid the scenes and environments of pioneer life and after attaining his majority he married Miss Emma Thomas, who was born in Ohio but was brought to Illinois when a maiden of ten summers. He purchased the interest of the other heirs in the old homestead property and thus succeeded to the ownership of the farm. However, as his financial resources increased he added to his property until his holdings embraced three hundred and forty-five acres. The work of improvement was carried steadily forward, as seen in well tilled fields, good fences and substantial buildings. Upon the farm he reared his family and made his home for many years but later removed to Argenta, where he filled the position of postmaster for a few years. No public trust reposed in him was ever betrayed in the slightest degree and he proved most capable in office. His death occurred in October, 1907, and he is still survived by his wife, who yet resides in Argenta. Their family numbered two sons, the younger being C. O. Kile, who is engaged in the lumber business in Ivesdale, Illinois.

Wiliam H. Kile, whose name introduces this record, spent his youthful days upon the farm and his early education was acquired in the home school. Later he attended the State Normal for two terms and also pursued a course in Brown's Business College, his thorough mental discipline well qualifying him for the responsibilities that came to him when his school life was over. He completed arrangements for having a home of his own by his marriage in Bloomington, Indiana, on the 22d of February, 1892, to Miss Rose M. Miller, who was born in Friends Creek township, Macon county, a daughter of Mrs. C. E. Miller. They took up their abode on the farm and he continued its cultivation for twelve years, at the same time successfully raising, feeding and fattening stock. While he raised some cattle, he made a specialty of Poland China hogs and shipped a carload or two of fat hogs each year. He likewise bred Poland Chinas and Hereford cattle and he held several public sales which brought him substantial returns for his stock. He became well known both as a breeder and dealer and won recognition as one of the leading stockmen of the community. In 1905 he removed to Argenta and purchased an interest in the general store of Kunz & Reidich. The firm is now Kunz & Kile and they carry an extensive stock of general merchandise, having a large double store. Here they have built up an extensive business, their sales amounting to about fifty thousand dollars per annum. They demand courteous treatment of their patrons on the part of all employes and thorough reliability is one of the potent features in their success.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Kile have been born six children: Sybil, Gladys, Wilma, Maxine and Ira W., all of whom are at home; and a daughter, Leah, who died when about seven months old. The parents are consistent and faithful members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church of Argenta and Mr. Kile belongs to the Masonic lodge and chapter at Monticello, to the Knights Templar commandery at Decatur and to Peoria Temple of the Mystic Shrine. He is a past master of the blue lodge and in his life exemplifies the beneficent spirit of the craft. While he usually votes the democratic ticket, he is largely independent in politics and never allows partisan prejudice to affect him at local elections where no

issue is involved. He has served as a member of the town board and also as a member of the school board of Argenta and is classed with the active and progressive citizens here. His cooperation is a tangible factor in any movement for the public good, his business integrity is unassailable and his enterprising spirit is manifest not only in commercial and business affairs but also in the relations of social life.

HENRY I. PARISH.

Among the prominent farmers and live-stock raisers of Harristown township, Macon county, is Henry I. Parish, the owner of a beautiful farm which has been developed largely through his own industry and good management and is one of the most productive farms in the region. He is a native son of Illinois and was born in Mount Auburn, Christian county, October 20, 1860, a son of George A. and Narcissa (Stockton) Parish. The father of our subject, who is now seventy-three years of age, was born in Bloomington, Indiana, and moved with his parents to Springfield where the head of the family worked at the brick mason's trade, later going to Mount Auburn, where George A. Parish began his active career as a blacksmith and has lived in the same place ever since and gained an honorable name in the community. After working for a few years at his trade he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres adjoining Mount Auburn, which he has since conducted. He is affiliated with the democratic party and has acceptably discharged the duties of several minor public offices. He is also an esteemed member of the Masonic fraternity and a citizen who has always had the best interests of the community at heart. The mother was a native of Mechanicsburg, Sangamon county, this state, a daughter of Ira and Ruth Stockton. Her father was a native of Kentucky and came to Sangamon county before the Civil war, removing, however, to Macon county, where he settled in Decatur township. Two of his maternal uncles, Edward, now deceased, and Richard, served with great credit in the Union army until the close of war.

Henry I. Parish grew up under the parental roof and was educated in the public schools. He served under his father until he reached manhood's estate and then began as a farmer on his own account. He rented land for four years in Christian county, at the end of which time he purchased eighty acres where he now lives, paying fifty-three dollars an acre. The land had been very slightly improved and after he had acquired full possession he erected a commodious barn and a handsome residence and in 1900 purchased an additional eighty acres, for which he paid eighty-five or eighty-six dollars an acre. This land is now worth two hundred dollars an acre and with a comfortable residence, large barn, good fences and an abundance of shade and ornamental trees and other improvements the farm is easily one of the most attractive properties in the township.

On March 13, 1883, in Hickory Point township, Mr. Parish was united in marriage to Miss Fannie Lewis, who was born in Coventry, Warwickshire, England, a daughter of Charles and Emma (Betts) Lewis. She came with her parents to America when she was two years of age and the family located in

Macon county. Here she received a fair common school education and since her marriage has been an unfailing assistant to her husband. Her father is still a resident of Hickory Point township. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Parish: Forny Oliver. born February 21, 1884, and educated for two years at Eureka College, now living at home; and Lewis Russell, born June 26, 1888, a student for one year at Millikin University and for one year at Eureka College, also at home.

Mr. Parish was for many years an ardent believer in the principles of the democratic party but is now independent in his political views and votes according to the conditions and necessities of the times. He served most acceptably as road commissioner for eight years, during which time he was instrumental in graveling the roads in the township. He is a member of the Christian church, as are also both of his sons, and has for many years occupied the office of deacon in the church, the elder son being now assistant superintendent of the Sunday school. By a life of industry, sobriety and rightly directed effort, Mr. Parish has attained deserved success in his chosen vocation, in addition to which he has gained the enduring gratitude of many persons, old and young, by his kind acts and well timed advice. He is recognized as a representative of the best type of American citizenship—a type which is the foundation and unfailing support of the republic.

CHARLES M. DURNING.

The soil of Illinois is naturally fertile and productive, and among those who are fortunate in possessing farms located in this rich district is numbered Charles M. Durning, one of Macon county's substantial and successful agriculturists. He is a native of the Prairie state, his birth occurring on the 15th of February, 1860, the only son of James and Mary (Nicholson) Durning. The family is of German lineage, although representatives of the name have resided in this country for many years. The grandfather of our subject, John Durning, was born in Venango county, Pennsylvania, and when a lad of fourteen years left home because of unharmonious relations with his stepmother, his whereabouts remaining unknown to the family until about thirty-five years ago. He first made his way to Kentucky, where later he married Jane Maxwell, and was engaged in steamboating on the Mississippi river for a number of years, and later carried on farming for some time. Subsequently he took up his abode near Decatur. Of their family but two sons survive: Edward of Decatur, and D. P., of Chanute, Kansas, the former having reached his seventy-eighth year.

James Durning, the father of our subject, was born in Caldwell county, Kentucky, June 20, 1828, and the year 1852 witnessed his arrival in Macon county, Illinois, where he took up twenty acres of land in Wheatland township. Here he erected a little two-room log cabin, in which all except two of his children were born. Subsequently he sold that property and invested in forty acres, which was also disposed of later, after which, in 1866, he purchased a fine farm of one hundred acres. By nature extremely kindhearted, like others

who are charitably inclined he often suffered financial loss in his efforts to be of assistance to some fellow-man in need. He was a faithful member of the Presbyterian church and on the last day of his life, June 12, 1910, was present at services. The occasion was Children's Day, and it was his desire to be present and see his grandchildren attend. With the falling of the evening shadows he passed away, and at his demise the community lost one of its most valued and honored citizens. Death came to him while yet in the enjoyment of good health. His wife, who in her maidenhood was Mary Nicholson, was born in Garrard county, Kentucky on the 28th of August, 1830, a daughter of John and Elizabeth Henry Nicholson. The father, also a native of Kentucky, came to Mason county in 1851, locating in Long Creek township, and the following year witnessed the arrival of the mother in company with her parents. They were here united in marriage in 1855, and unto this union were born eight children, of whom six passed away in infancy and early childhood. At the time of their arrival Macon county was but sparsely settled and Decatur, the flourishing business center of the present time, was but a city in embryo, giving little indication at that early day of the industrial and commercial activities which were to mark its later development.

It was amid such scenes and environment that Charles M. Durning, whose name introduces this review, was reared, no event of special importance coming to vary the routine of life for him during the period of his boyhood and youth. The district schools near his home afforded him his educational privileges, and during the periods of vacation he assisted his father in the work of the farm. When seventeen years of age, however, he put aside his text-books to give his entire attention to agricultural pursuits, and he continued to give his father the benefit of his assistance until 1884, when he was married and took up business on his own acount. He managed his father's farm until 1900 and then purchased his present property, consisting of one hundred and forty-three acres located on section 3, Mount Zion township. At that time but one hundred acres were cleared but he at once applied himself to the further development of the place, clearing the remainder of the land, bringing the fields under cultivation and erecting a comfortable house and substantial barns and outbuildings. As the years passed he made other improvements, introducing all of the modern accessories for facilitating farm labor, and the place today is one of the valuable and desirable properties of the township, standing as a monument to his life of industry, perseverance and thrift. He engages in general farming and stock-raising, making a specialty of buying and fattening hogs and cattle for the market, and the substantial success which has crowned his efforts is but an indication of keen business sagacity, close application and wise management.

It was on the 22d of October, 1884, that Mr. Durning was united in marriage to Miss Lutitia Muir, a native of Lewis county, Missouri, and a daughter of George G. and Mary (Daugherty) Muir. The father, who was born in Kentucky, October 11, 1837, was a railroad conductor by occupation and was also a soldier in the Civil war, seeing active service in Missouri as a soldier of the Confederate army. He died September 4, 1864. His wife, whom he married on the 2d of February, 1860, in Missouri, was born in Grant county, Wisconsin, January 21, 1840, and after his death was again married, in 1867, to Thomas Price, a

resident of Illinois, whose birth, however, occurred in Ohio. She departed this life on the 8th of January, 1904, and Mr. Price died October 22, the same year. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Durning has been blessed with five children, as follows: Arthur C., who was born July 19, 1885, and is engaged in railroad construction; Orville R., born July 7, 1887, who is a trusted employe of the National Bank of Decatur; Nina May, who was born February 12, 1892, and was a graduate in the academy class of the Millikin University in 1910; Helen, born January 3, 1896; and Juanita, born on the 5th of August, 1900.

Mr. Durning's religious faith is that of the Presbyterian church, and fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and with the Modern Woodmen of America. A republican in politics, he has been called to public office by his fellow citizens, having filled the office of township collector for two terms, township assessor for a similar term and at the present time serving as school director. Competent and faithful in public office, he has ever been actuated in all that he did by a spirit of loyalty and public-spirited devotion to the general cause, and in private life he is influenced by manly principles and honorable purpose. He is a successful man, and yet his success cannot be measured in terms of material gain alone, for his sterling characteristics have won for him the confidence, regard and good will of his fellowmen—a possession more to be desired than material wealth.

FREDERICK A. GRONINGER.

Among those citizens of Macon county who had their birth across the waters but who in the new world have found and improved the opportunities for business advancement which led them to seek their fortunes in this county, is numbered Frederick A. Groninger. He was born in Oldenberg, Germany, on the 1st of December, 1830, and is therefore in the eightieth year of his life. His parents, Frederick and Helen Groninger, were also natives of the fatherland, where their entire lives were spent, the father there devoting his life to the ministry. Their family consisted of three sons, but the brothers of our subject are now deceased.

To the public schools of his native land Frederick A. Groninger is indebted for the educational advantages which he enjoyed during his boyhood and youth. After laying aside his text-books he was employed for some time as a farm hand, and was thus engaged until 1859, when he determined to seek the advantages which awaited the ambitious and industrious in the land of opportunity across the waters. Coming to America he made his way to Nebraska where he purchased land and for about ten years engaged in farming. The year 1871 witnessed his arrival in Macon county, Illinois, locating in Pleasant View township, where he purchased eighty acres of land. This formed the nucleus of his present excellent farm, for as the years passed and he prospered in his undertaking he was able to add to his original purchase until he now owns two hundred and eighty acres of rich and valuable land on sections 8 and 9. His efforts have

since been directed to its further cultivation and development and he has brought the place under a high state of improvement. About twenty-five years ago he erected the attractive modern residence which is now his home, and has equipped the farm with all the accessories and conveniences that go to make up a model farm. He has engaged in general farming, and his well directed efforts, his close application and his practical methods have been resultant factors in the acquirement of a sucecss which is at once substantial and gratifying. He still gives personal supervision to his business interests, although the actual work of the farm is left to others, and now, in the evening of life, is enjoying those comforts which come as a reward for long years of active labor and earnest endeavor.

Mr. Groninger was united in marriage, June 2, 1880, to Miss Mary Elizabeth Edwards, who was born in Athensville, Green county, Illinois, on the 17th of December, 1858, a daughter of Nathaniel and Louisa (Fergusson) Edwards. The father, who was born in Kentucky on the 20th of November, 1830, passed away in Shelbyville, Illinois, April 2, 1903, but the mother, whose birth occurred in Green county, Illinois, is still living and makes her home in Blue Mound at the age of seventy-six years. In their family were seven children, as follows: Mary E., who became the wife of Mr. Groninger, of this review; Lucinda, who married Nicholas Depue, of Grand Island, Nebraska; Matilda, the widow of John Crawford, who makes her home in Mount Park, Oklahoma; Annis, wife of John Hull, also residing in Oklahoma; Nancy, who married Pink Huston and lives in Missouri; Nona, the wife of Harris Revis, of Blue Mound, and Birton E., at Blue Mound. Mr. and Mrs. Groninger became the parents of seven children, all of whom were born in Pleasant View township. The first child passed away in infancy. Helena, the second in order of birth, was born in 1882 and passed away December 31, 1907, her remains being interred in Hall cemetery. She had become the wife of Charles Powers, and at her death left five sons, Michael, Frederick, Willard, Raymond and Charles Teddy. Anna, the next child, was born in 1884 and became the wife of Anderson Austin. They have two children, Mary Ellen Pearl and Edwin, and the family reside in Pleasant View township. Frederick William, born June 22, 1889, is a graduate of the township schools and is now at home, assisting his father in the conduct of the homestead. Alvena Wilhelmina Caroline, born April 23, 1893, is yet at home and keeps house for her father. Edward Adolph was born in February, 1895, and passed away at the age of one year and one month, and the youngest of the family also passed away in infancy.

On the 5th of April, 1909, Mr. Groninger was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, whose remains were laid to rest in Hall cemetery. She was a lady of most excellent characteristics, a lover of good literature, progressive in her ideas, refined in manner and kindly and generous in spirit. Her loss was keenly felt not only in the family, where she had ever been a most loving wife and devoted and indulgent mother, but also in the community where she had long been honored and loved by her friends and neighbors as an excellent example of true and noble womanhood. She passed away in the belief of the Christian church, whose teachings had ever been exemplified in her daily life. Mr. Groninger holds membership in the German Lutheran church, while he gives

stanch support to the principles of the democratic party. For a number of years he held the position of road boss, and has ever been deeply and helpfully interested in all matters that pertain to the public life of the community, casting his influence in behalf of those projects which have for their object its permanent upbuilding and development. Although he has long since passed the Psalmist's allotted span of three score years and ten, his memory remains remarkably clear and goes back through long years of active connection with the agricultural interests of his adopted country to his early life in his native land. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to seek his fortune in the new world, however, for here he found the opportunities which he sought for advancement in business lines, and has won most substantial prosperity. The full measure of his success, however, cannot be taken in terms of material success alone, for he has acquired an enviable place in the opinion of his fellow citizens, among whom he has even been an especial favorite.

JOHN WASHBURN.

All Decatur knows and respects John Washburn, who since 1855 has been identified with mercantile interests in this city. He came here when Decatur was a village and with its upbuilding and improvement has been closely associated, contributing at all times to its progress and advancement. His life has indeed been honorable and worthy of emulation, and although he is now eighty-one years of age he still remains a factor in the world's work, being proprietor of one of the oldest established mercantile enterprises of the city.

His birth occurred in Lyme, Grafton county, New Hampshire, June 1, 1829, his parents being John and Sarah (Tucker) Washburn, the latter a granddaughter of one of the soldiers who fought under the immediate command of General George Washington from the beginning until the close of the Revolutionary war. He was a member of a Massachusetts regiment and participated in the battle of Bunker Hill. He was also one of the famous Boston tea party and aided in throwing the tea overboard into the sea, thus showing open resistance to the tea tax. John Washburn remembers the stories which his grandfather told concerning the Revolutionary war and of hearing him sing the old song of the British soldiers, the tenor of which was:

"Indian pudding and pumpkin pie;
Hurrah! how that will make the Yankees fly."

Three brothers named Washburn were founders of the family in the new world. They left England on one of the old time sailing vessels and settled at Bridgeport, Massachusetts, near Boston, arriving soon after the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers. For generations representatives of the name lived and died there. The old home place was in possession of the famliy for one hundred and forty years but changed ownership about a year ago.

John Washburn, the father of him whose name introduces this review, was born June 29, 1795, and died January 6, 1872. He was a New Hampshire

farmer, devoting his entire life to general agricultural pursuits. His wife, who was born September 13, 1794, died January 9, 1874. The family is noted for longevity. A sister of Mr. Washburn, Mrs. Mary E. Richardson, is living in Westfield, Massachusetts, at the age of eighty-three years, and a cousin and other relatives of the family remain residents of the eastern states. A brother, Benjamin T. Washburn, was born July 6, 1832, and died June 11, 1908. John Sloan, a great-uncle of Mr. Washburn, on the paternal side, died in June, 1824, at the remarkable old age of ninety-six years, while his wife, Esther, passed away in December, 1828, also ninety-six years of age. These were the first white settlers of Lyme, New Hampshire.

John Washburn pursued his education in the district schools of his native city until twenty years of age and during that period also assisted his father in the operation of the home farm. Later he removed to Newark, Ohio, where he engaged in teaching school for three terms and also spent one term as a teacher near Oberlin, Ohio, but thinking to find commercial pursuits more congenial and profitable, he became connected with mercantile interests at Newark, where he remained until 1855, when he came to Decatur, Illinois, which at that time was little more than a cross-roads village. There were no paved streets, only a few dwellings and a very limited number of business houses. Mr. Washburn secured a stock of merchandise, opened a store and has since been connected with the city. He has occupied the same store room for forty years and this is one of the oldest established mercantile enterprises of Decatur. The store is located at No. 219 South Park street and he resides at No. 249 West William street.

In Decatur, in 1867, Mr. Washburn was united in marriage to Miss Zarilda A. Emmons, who died in 1879. In politics he is independent, voting rather for men and measures than for party. He is an enthusiastic and zealous member of the Decatur Retail Grocers Association and also has the welfare and progress of the city at heart. He has been a successful merchant but is entirely free from ostentation and display. He is remarkably well preserved for one of his years and has but recently returned from a trip to the east, visiting Ohio and his old home in New Hampshire, where his ancestors were among the makers of history, leaving their impress for good upon the development and progress of that section of the country. Decatur citizens, having long known Mr. Washburn, would regard no work of this character complete without mention of his life, and he has indeed been a most prominent factor in the commercial circles of the city.

WILLIAM CROSSON.

From the ranks of the employed, working by the month as a farm hand, to the ownership of an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty-one acres, is the record of William Crosson, who is now numbered among the representative and progressive agriculturists of South Macon township. He is one of Ireland's contribution to the citizenship of Illinois, his birth occurring in the north of Ireland on the 1st of January, 1844. His parents, William and Mary (McGarvey) Crosson, were also natives of the Emerald isle, where the mother passed

away when her son William was but nine years of age. His father, who yet makes his home in Ireland, has reached the venerable age of ninety years.

William Crosson, who was the eldest in a family of six children, was reared in the country of his nativity and in the common schools received a good education. He remained with his father until after attaining his majority, and then, aroused by the reports concerning the advantages to be found in the new world, he left Londonderry, September 7, 1867, with America—the land of opportunity—as his destination. Arriving at New York, he made his way to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he spent the following winter, and in May, 1868, came to Illinois, locating in Bureau county. There he obtained employment as a farm hand, working by the month, and in that capacity he labored for ten years, or until, desiring that his efforts should more directly benefit himself, he removed to Shelby county and there rented a farm of fifty acres, engaging in agriculture on his own account. That farm remained his home for two years after which, feeling that the money which he had been able to accumulate through careful saving and wise expenditure would permit such a step, he purchased eighty acres of land in Macon county, which tract formed the nucleus of his present excellent farm. He at once began the further development and improvement of that tract, and with the passing of the years, as he prospered, he was able to add to his original purchase until he is now the owner of one hundred and sixty-one acres located in section 12, South Macon township, which is now one of the good farming properties of the locality. About twenty years ago he erected what is now the main part of his home, and has since added to it until now he has a fine modern residence. He has introduced many improvements upon the place, and here engages in general farming and also gives much attention to stock-raising, both branches of his business proving most successful.

The home life of Mr. Crosson had its foundation in his marriage, in September, 1876, to Miss Martha Watts, a daughter of Mt. Zion and Mary (Turner) Watts, natives of Ohio and Virginia respectively. Mrs. Crosson was one of a family of thirteen children, her birth occurring on the 7th of September, 1846. By her marriage to Mr. Crosson she became the mother of seven children, of whom the eldest, James M., was born April 29, 1877, and now makes his home in Macon county. He married Miss Minnie Lindermood, and they have one child. William J., the second in order of birth, was born on the 7th of December, 1878, and is employed as railroad telegraph operator. Edward B. passed away in infancy. Mary E., who was born February 7, 1882, is a stenographer of Decatur, and Margaret C., who was born January 5, 1884, is a milliner of that city. Martha G., whose birth occurred in August, 1886, is attending business college in Decatur, and Annie A., born April 11, 1889, is yet at home.

Mr. Crosson and his family are members of the Roman Catholic church of Macon, while the former gives his support to the democratic party when national issues are involved. In local politics, however, he is independent, reserving the right to cast his influence in behalf of those men and measures which in his opinion are best adapted to conserve the general good. He is a firm believer in the policy of the best good to the greatest number, and his genuine worth and public-spirited citizenship have been recognized by his fellowmen, who elected him to the position of road commissioner, in which he served for one term. For

twelve years he has been a school director, and the cause of education has ever found in him a stanch champion. All matters relating to the material, intellectual and moral welfare of the community receive his hearty cooperation, and he has ever done all in his power to promote the welfare of his adopted country. He has never regretted his determination to come to America, for here, where opportunity is open to all young men possessed of energy, ambition and determination, he has met success, prosperity having come to him as the legitimate result of well directed effort and intelligently applied labor.

FREDERICK E. WILSON.

Frederick E. Wilson, a well known and respected resident of Macon, has been successfully engaged in the buying and selling of live stock throughout his entire business career and during the past seven years has also devoted considerable attention to auctioneering. His birth occurred in Macon, Illinois, on the 22d of February, 1859, his parents being William and Amelia (Delbridge) Wilson, natives of Germany. The father passed away in 1862, when forty-six years of age, and the mother afterward wedded Henry Harbor, of St. Clair county, Illinois, by whom she had three children. She was called to her final rest in April, 1892.

Frederick E. Wilson, the elder of two children born unto his parents, attended the public schools for a brief period but his opportunities in this direction were limited and his education has been largely self-acquired. When still but a boy he manifested an inclination to deal in and handle live stock and this branch of activity has claimed his time and energies throughout his entire business career, his attention being principally given to the buying and selling of horses and mules. During the past seven years he has likewise been engaged in auctioneering and farming in partnership with his son, Emanuel C., and in his various undertakings has won a gratifying measure of prosperity. He owns an attractive and substantial home in the town of Macon and is an enterprising and representative resident of the community.

In 1881 Mr. Wilson was united in marriage to Miss Elva McDaniel, who was born on the 2d of January, 1862, her parents being Manuel and Rachel C. (Hill) McDaniel, natives of Macon county, Illinois. Mrs. Wilson was the eighth in order of birth in a family of nine children and by her marriage has become the mother of three sons. Emanuel C., whose natal day was June 27, 1883, was married on the 6th of January, 1908, to Miss Rose Cutter, who passed away on the 28th of December following. He now resides in Macon with his parents. Arthur E., who was born on the 11th of December, 1885, is a member of the New York Club of the National League. Ernest E., whose birth occurred September 17, 1887, died on the 27th of January, 1889.

When national questions and issues are involved Mr. Wilson supports the republican party but at local elections casts an independent ballot, voting for the candidate whom he believes best qualified. His fraternal relations are with

South Macon Lodge, No. 467, A. F. & A. M., and Beacon Lodge, No. 434, K. P., and his wife belongs to the ladies' auxiliary of the latter order. Both are devoted and consistent members of the Methodist church at Macon. They have spent their entire lives in this county and are well known and highly esteemed within its borders.

JOHN NEWSHAM.

John Newsham, owner of a beautiful farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 34, South Macon township, and known as one of the enterprising citizens of the township, was born in St. Clair county, Illinois, October 9, 1856. He is a son of John and Catherine (Cottom) Newsham. The father was born in England and came with his parents to America in his boyhood, settling in Illinois. Here he was married in 1852, his wife being a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, where she was born September 20, 1830. Mr. Newsham engaged in farming and was an industrious and capable man, who gained the respect of his neighbors and of all with whom he came in contact. He departed this life May 24, 1876. Mrs. Newsham survived her husband twenty-five years and was called away September 15, 1901. She was a woman of many excellent qualities and one who left the world better for having lived in it. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Newsham, the subject of this review being the third in order of birth.

Educated in the public schools, John Newsham continued upon the farm until he arrived at the estate of manhood. After taking unto himself a life partner he began farming on his own account and in 1893 purchased the farm on which he has since lived, devoting his attention to general farming and the rearing of live stock for the market. Since gaining possession of the farm Mr. Newsham has made many improvements, modernizing the residence, erecting new outbuildings and fences, setting out shade and ornamental trees and purchasing up-to-date appliances, so that at the present time his farm is one of the most desirable properties in the township. In the meantime the owner has prospered financially through good management and well applied industry.

On July 3, 1879, Mr. Newsham was united in marriage to Miss Josephine Cook, a daughter of Henry and Catherine (Monsell) Cook, natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Illinois about 1857 and settled in Macon county. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Newsham being the eldest. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Newsham has been brightened by the arrival of four children. Viola A., who was born April 5, 1880, is now living in Decatur. William W., born August 18, 1881, married Miss Nona March, of Macon county, and is now living in this county and has one child. Eleonora W., born December 11, 1883, is the wife of George Mills, of Keyesport, Clinton county, Illinois. Frank E., born September 3, 1899, is still at home.

Mr. Newsham is socially identified with South Macon Lodge, No. 467, A. F. & A. M., and he and his wife are members of the Order of the Eastern Star. Politically he is a republican, but he is a strong advocate of prohibition

and usually votes independently in local affairs. He and his family are worthy members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Macon and for some years he has acted as steward of the church, his wife being a member of the Ladies' Aid Society and the Home and Foreign Missionary Societies. Mr. and Mrs. Newsham have many friends in this community and are interested in all worthy movements that aim to advance the permanent welfare of the region.

CHARLES H. FINSON.

Charles H. Finson, who was a soldier of the Civil war and is today a responsible farmer and stock-raiser of Macon county, was born on a farm near Bethel, now Chapin, in Morgan county, Illinois, February 11, 1847, a son of John D. and Narcissa (True) Finson. The father and mother were both natives of Maine and there they grew to maturity. Mr. Finson, desirous of taking advantage of the excellent opportunities offered in the agricultural regions of the west, came to Morgan county, this state, where he located upon a farm and soon demonstrated that he had made no mistake in selecting Illinois as his adopted state. After becoming established in his new home he communicated with the lady of his choice in the Pine Tree state and upon his solicitation she came west and they were married in Morgan county. He became the owner of two hundred and eighty acres of land in Morgan and Scott counties and was an industrious and enterprising citizen, greatly esteemed by his neighbors and loved by his family.

Charles H. Finson was reared upon the farm and received his education in the public schools. In April, 1864, at the age of seventeen years, he offered his services in support of the government and was accepted as a member of Company I, Eleventh Missouri Volunteer Infantry. He was first under fire at Tupelo, Mississippi, and later was present in some of the important engagements of the war, among them the battles of Nashville and Spanish Fort and was also in many minor engagements. He served his country valiantly and after the close of the war, in January, 1866, was honorably discharged and mustered out of service, returning to Morgan county, where he again resumed the peaceful pursuit of agriculture. At twenty-one years of age he began farming for himself as a renter of land in Morgan county and a few years later, after his marriage, he went to Crawford county, Kansas, with the intention of making his permanent home in that state. However, he did not find conditions as favorable as he expected and he again took up his residence in Morgan county, later spending a few years in Scott county, where he purchased fifty acres of land and also owned sixty acres which he inherited from his father. He sold his farm in 1889 and purchased land in Macon county, paying sixty-five dollars an acre, and here he established his homestead and now occupies a beautiful farm of one hundred and sixty acres on sections 7 and 8, Harristown township. Here he has met with gratifying success, in the pursuit of which he has devoted the principal years of his life. His farm is under perfect cultivation

and he has erected good buildings, enlarged and remodelled his residence and made many other valuable improvements. He has seen no reason to regret taking up his home in this county.

On October 29, 1869, in Morgan county, Mr. Finson was united in marriage to Miss Susan Mansfield, a native of Morgan county and a daughter of James and Elizabeth Mansfield. Four children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Finson, William, born November 24, 1870, in Crawford county, Kansas, married Bertha Sanford and is now engaged in the grain business at Monticello, this state. Edward L., a resident of Niantic, who was born in January, 1872, married Ida Kapp and has one child, Maud C. Lena is now Mrs. Thomas Knapp, of Missouri, and the mother of one child, Harold. James lives with his brother at Monticello.

Mr. Finson, as was his father, is a supporter of the republican party and cast his first presidential ballot for U. S. Grant. He has never aspired to political honors, preferring to devote his time to private interests. He is a man of exemplary habits and although his name is not on the rolls of any religious denomination, he is a liberal contributor to all worthy causes and in all respects, as he has demonstrated through a life of usefulness, is a patriotic and loyal citizen.

SARD GILES.

Sard Giles, a highly sucessful farmer of South Macon township, Macon county, was born in Meigs county, Ohio, December 27, 1850. He is a son of Andrew G. and Rebecca (Payne) Giles, both of whom were natives of Ohio. The father was a farmer and departed this life in his native state before the Civil war. The mother is still living in Ohio and has reached the advanced age of eighty-five years.

The third child of a family of four children, the subject of our review was reared upon the farm and educated in the public schools. He engaged in various ocupations and at twenty-three years of age, believing that more favorable conditions for a young man who had only his own resources to depend upon existed in Illinois than in his community, he came to this state and worked by the month until 1877, when he began farming upon rented land. At the end of two years he purchased eighty acres in Pleasant View township, this county, and later disposed of this tract and entered the tile business, to which he devoted his energies for about ten years, in the meantime, however, acquiring two hundred acres of land in Pleasant View township. Desiring to devote his entire attention to agricultural operations, he leased the tile factory, sold the land which he had acquired in Pleasant View township and purchased one hundred and sixty acres in section 26, South Macon township, which he owns today. After living on this farm one year he moved to Macon and, prospering in his agricultural operations, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in section 35, South Macon township, and later acquired one hundred and sixty acres more in the same township. He bought sixty-five acres in South Wheatland town-

ship and there lived for three years, when he sold this property and bought an additional forty acres in South Macon township. Having purchased a residence in Macon, he moved to town and after three years became owner of the handsome residence in which he has since made his home. He is now the possessor of a beautiful farm of six hundred and eighty acres and is one of the progressive farmers of the county.

In 1885 Mr. Giles was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Davis, a daughter of Isaac and Maria Davis, both natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Illinois in the early days. Mrs. Giles was born February 22, 1862, and was seventh in order of birth in a family of nine children. To Mr. and Mrs. Giles two children have been born: Leta, born February 11, 1887, and married to William F. Timmons, of Macon county, mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work; and Elmo S., born November 28, 1892, and living at home.

Mr. Giles politically is in sympathy with the republican party, believing that its principles of protection and centralization are of very great importance in the maintenance of prosperity and for the perpetuity of the American republic. Since his early manhood Mr. Giles has been actively identified with general farming and live-stock raising, except during the time he was engaged in the tile business, and his operations have always reflected credit upon himself as a man of the highest integrity and honor and upon the vocation he so ably represents. He and his wife are attendants of the Methodist church and are liberal contributors to all worthy causes.

MERRILL LeROY HARRY.

Merrill LeRoy Harry, general superintendent of the Decatur Railway & Light Company and recognized as one of the competent and progressive electrical managers of the state, is a native of Michigan and was born at Bay City, June 8, 1878, a son of Charles L. and Clara J. (Affleck) Harry. The father was born in Ohio and became a mechanical electrical engineer. He settled in Bay City, where he was married July 5, 1877. Mrs. Harry was born February 28, 1858, and was the eldest of a family of six children. She became the mother of two children: Merrill LeRoy, our subject; and Florence, who died at the age of five years.

The subject of this review received his preliminary education in the public schools and later pursued a course in a business college at Bay City. He began his active career in the employ of the street railway company in Bay City, where he advanced through various positions, going from Bay City to Kokomo, Indiana, where he acted as superintendent of the Kokomo Railway & Light Company, continuing in that position for six years. In 1901 he came to Danville, Illinois, in a similiar capacity and in 1903 was appointed general superintendent of the Decatur Railway & Light Company, continuing in that position ever since and performing his duties with a high degree of acceptance on the part of the directors of the company as well as to the satisfaction of the citizens generally. By years of practical experience he has become thoroughly familiar

with his work and his genial manner and pleasing address greatly assist in forwarding all matters of business placed in his charge.

On February 17, 1909, Mr. Harry was happily united in marriage to Mrs. Mildred O'Hara, a daughter of Howard M. and Mary Robinson, of Buffalo, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson are the parents of three children: Mildred, herein mentioned; William, who died in childhood; and Harry now living in Buffalo, this state. One child, Mary Frances, born February 15, 1910, has blessed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry.

Mr. Harry is connected with a number of interests in the community, among which may be mentioned Ionic Lodge, A. F. & A. M., and Decatur Lodge, B. P. O. E. From the time of casting his first ballot he has been a supporter of the republican party, being a stanch believer in the principles of protection of American industries and centralization of power in the national government. Mr. Harry is a member of the Presbyterian church, while his wife's name is found upon the rolls of the Methodist church. He is identified with the Decatur Club and the Country Club of Decatur, the Missouri Athletic Club of St. Louis and the Decatur Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Harry has many friends in the various organizations with which he is connected and is equally popular among his business associates, who have great respect for his ability and good judgment.

SOLOMON KITCH.

Living quietly in the evening of life, Solomon Kitch enjoys the respect and good-will of all who know him. He is a veteran of the Civil war, and therefore entitled to his country's gratitude. In days of peace he has been equally loyal to the best interests of city, state and nation, and his entire life has been characterized by qualities that have won him kindly regard. He was born in Lancaster City, Pennsylvania, October 1, 1830, and represents one of the old families of that state. His paternal grandfather, who was also born in Pennsylvania, devoted his active business life to farming and died in Lancaster. His son, George Kitch, father of Solomon Kitch, was also a native of the Keystone state, where he died when his son Solomon was but eighteen months old. He had there conducted business as a hotelkeeper. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Sarah Ann Goodman, was born in Pennsylvania and was married in Lancaster. Her father was a native of Germany, but when nine years of age came to the new world and spent his remaining days in Lancaster county. He drove a six-horse team from Lancaster to Philadelphia before the railroads were built. His daughter Sarah gave her hand in marriage to George Kitch and after his death went with her five children to her father's home in Lancaster county, living with him for several years. She again married, becoming the wife of Henry White. They resided upon a farm until the death of Mr. White in 1855, when she again became a resident of Lancaster. In 1859 she removed westward to Niantic, Illinois, where she purchased a home, which she occupied until her demise in 1869.

MR. AND MRS. SOLOMON KITCH

Solomon Kitch acquired his education in the public schools of Lancaster county. He remained with his mother until twenty-five years of age, when he was married and removed to Fort Wayne, Indiana, but after a brief period returned to the place of his nativity, where he engaged in laying water pipe. In 1857, however, he again left Pennsylvania, and on the 4th of March took up his abode in Niantic, Illinois, where he was living at the time of the outbreak of the Civil war. Bidding adieu to his wife and children, he offered his services to the government, enlisting in Company E, One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Infantry, at Decatur on the 6th of August, 1862. He served until the close of the war and was mustered out at Washington, D. C., receiving his pay at Camp Butler, Illinois, on the 11th of June, 1865. He had served for nearly three years and participated in the battles of Arkansas Post, Kenesaw Mountain, Murfreesboro, Atlanta and Vicksburg. In the last named battle he was shot, but a box of cartridges which he had in his pocket saved his life. He also participated in the engagement at Missionary Ridge, together with many skirmishes, the regiment taking part altogether in sixteen hotly contested engagements. It was his brigade that captured Fort McAllister.

After the war Mr. Kitch rejoined his family in Niantic, but while he was absent at the front one of his sons had died. For several years following the war he engaged in farming and remained in that vicinity altogether for thirty years. He then went to Kansas, where he resided for a short time, and finally removed to Decatur, retiring from active business in 1895.

Mr. Kitch was married in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, on the 4th of March, 1855, to Miss Sarah J. Hammond, who was born in the city of Lancaster, March 27, 1835. Her father, George Hammond, was born in Massachusetts June 27, 1807, and removed to Maryland when his daughter Sarah was but six years of age. He afterward lived in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and subsequently in Grafton, Virginia, where he died November 18, 1869. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Julia T. Devault, was born in France, August 19, 1807. Her parents, after living for a time in Massachusetts, removed to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where the death of Mrs. Hammond occurred February 18, 1877. She became the wife of Mr. Hammond on the 14th of February, 1828, at Savage Factor, Maryland, the wedding ceremony being performed by the Rev. Hoskins. In the Hammond family were twelve children.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Kitch there were also born twelve children: Walter F., born January 10, 1856, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, died on the 11th of July of the same year; Laura A., born July 26, 1857, in Niantic, Illinois, was married June 10, 1892, to William S. Griswall, and is living in Decatur; Julia, born in Niantic, October 31, 1858, died on the first anniversary of her birth; Harriet D., born July 5, 1860, in Niantic, died on the 5th of September of the same year; Sarah E., a twin sister of Harriet, died only two days later; George H., born February 7, 1862, in Niantic, died on the 8th of October of the same year; Mary T. born April 25, 1866, in Niantic, is now the wife of John P. Martin, and has five children, Florence, Goldie, Elva, Herbert and Clarence, all of whom are living. Benjamin S., born in Niantic, November 1, 1867, and now a resident of Decatur, married Sarah E. Price and has three children, Mark, Marie and Paul. Ulysses was born February 7, 1870, and died on the 7th of August

of the same year. Samuel, born January 19, 1871, died on the 19th of July, following. Arthur C., born May 27, 1872, at Niantic, died August 11, 1909, leaving a widow who in her maidenhood was Adeline Eassman. Clarence A., born October 30, 1878, died April 25, 1906.

In politics Mr. Kitch has ever been an earnest republican since the organization of the party. He belongs to Dunham Post, No. 141, G. A. R., and his wife is a member of the Christian church. He has always endeavored to follow the golden rule, and he and his wife are undoubtedly among the most highly esteemed of the old couples of Decatur, being loved and respected by all who know them. They have long resided in Macon county, their residence here covering a period of more than a half century, so that they have witnessed much of the growth and progress of this locality.

OTTO FREDERICK BAUER.

Otto Frederick Bauer, one of the successful farmers of Macon county, now living on a farm of two hundred acres in sections 26 and 35, South Macon township, was born in Macoupin county, Illinois, October 11, 1871. He is the son of John Henry and Anna (Ahlers) Bauer. The father was a native of Germany and was born November 28, 1825. Seeking more favorable conditions than he perceived in the old country, he came to America in 1848 and settled in Macoupin county, where he was married four years later. For nearly fifty years he was identified with farming interests, departing this life in 1899. The mother was also a native of Germany. She was born November 11, 1832, and came to this country with her parents when she was about eighteen years of age, the family settling near Bunker Hill, Macoupin county, where she is now living. She was the mother of eight children, of whom the subject of this review was seventh in order of birth.

Educated in the public schools, Otto F. Bauer grew up as a farm boy and then went to St. Louis where he continued his studies in the public schools and entered the manual training school, which is one of the finest institutions of the kind in the United States, graduating with third honors in 1890 in a class of fifty-four members. He had been an earnest student and the position which he occupied in his class is an index of his ambition and of the zeal which he has displayed in everything he has undertaken. Returning to the home farm, he continued there until after his marriage, when he went to Macoupin county and in 1899 purchased ninety acres of land near Elwin, where he farmed for two years, at the end of which time he sold the farm and purchased the land where he now lives. Five years ago he built a handsome residence which is provided with all modern conveniences and he has made many improvements, adding greatly to the value of the farm. He engages in general farming and live-stock raising and does his work so well that he is always assured of handsome yearly returns.

In 1895 Mr. Bauer was united in marriage to Miss Carrie Otta, a daughter of August and Augusta (Durfer) Otta, who came from Germany to America in the '50s and settled in Missouri, but have since become residents of Decatur. Mrs. Bauer was born February 2, 1874, and has been to her husband a faithful and helpful companion. Two children have brightened their household: Myra M., born July 25, 1898; and Paul H., born April 11, 1903. Mr. Bauer is identified with the republican party, but in local issues votes independent of any party ties. He is a valued member of the Congregational church of Bunker Hill and has many friends, not only in the church but among citizens generally, because of his recognized character for integrity and his friendly attitude toward all worthy movements aiming to make the neighborhood the best possible place of residence. Mr. Bauer is a man of good education and wide reading and has applied to his work thoroughly tested principles, so that the success he has gained has been well earned and gives promise of still greater returns in the years to come.

T. C. BUXTON, M. D.

Dr. T. C. Buxton is both the architect and builder of his own fortunes and the years have brought him success, not because chance or fortune favored him but because he had courage and energy. Denied the opportunities which most boys enjoy, unable to read or write before he reached early manhood, he has overcome this lack of early education and has won for himself a creditable name as a representative of the profession of medicine, of law and of literature.

Dr. Buxton was born in 1875 in Benton county, Arkansas, in that little locality of Bear Hollow which the Civil war made famous. He is a son of Mills Buxton, a native of Morgan county, Tennessee, and a grandson of William Buxton, who was born in North Carolina. His mother bore the maiden name of Martha Mason and was a native of Macon, Mississippi. Both parents were of English descent. Mills Buxton was a Methodist circuit rider, traveling in that way through Arkansas and Missouri in his effort to influence the people through the teachings of the gospel. In 1878 he accepted a regular pastorate in the Methodist church of Winfield, Kansas, where he remained until his death, which occurred early in 1879. His wife passed away in Arkansas, March 5, 1875. She was a representative of an old southern family who owned slaves.

Following his mother's death Dr. Buxton was reared by an uncle, T. M. Mason, upon a farm in the midst of the Ozark mountains. There were no schools so that he was deprived of educational advantages, and feeling that his opportunities were very narrow and restricted there he ran away from home when fifteen years of age, going to Oklahoma and Texas, where he spent two years on a cattle ranch. On the expiration of that period he made his way toward Chicago, hoping to get work at the World's Fair grounds. As he had not the money for carfare he was making his way northward on a freight train but was thrown off at Decatur, June 3, 1893. He was absolutely penniless and found it very difficult to secure work, so that he had to depend upon charity

for the means of subsistence for about three months. In September he secured a position with the Decatur Cracker Company at two dollars and a half per week. He worked with that company during the winter and in the following summer was employed at farm labor. He was unskilled in any trade and was uneducated, and realizing how great was his handicap on that account; in the fall he started to school at Casner, Illinois, being instructed by J. E. Underwood, who taught him to read and write. During that period he worked for his board for James Wycoff. After learning to read he advanced very rapidly. By the first of January he had completed the first seven grades, taking a final examination in a class of four hundred and eighty-two and making a rank of seventy-six. He worked through the summer and in the fall again attended school at Casner, completing the work of the eighth, ninth and tenth grades. Because of his age he fully realized the importance of improving every moment in school and made such progress that in the following spring he secured the position of teacher in what was known as the Whistleville school at Fort Daniels at a salary of thirty-five dollars per month. This was the most that he had earned up to that time. In the following summer he entered the Western Normal College at Bushnell, Illinois, after which he returned and taught the Prairie Hall school at fifty dollars per month. He attended the Western Normal again during the next summer and then under contract arranged to teach the Whistleville school for three years at a salary of fifty-five dollars per month. On closing the school he took charge of a threshing outfit for the summer and then resumed his teaching with the approach of winter.

Laudable ambition and unfaltering industry and determination constituted the salient points in his life and character during this period. In 1899 he entered the medical college at Keokuk, Iowa, and each summer during his college course operated a threshing machine. In the fall of 1900 he entered the St. Louis College of Physicians and Surgeons. Winning a scholarship in a competitive examination offered by the Missouri College of Law, he attended the law school at night in 1902 and the medical school in the day for two years. He was graduated in medicine in 1904 and has since engaged in practice. He is also a member of the Indiana bar and not only in professional fields has he won distinction but also in literary circles. In 1899 he published the Blind Minister, a romance, and in 1900 brought out a pamplet on How to Read Character. In 1901 he was the author of a series of twenty articles on Medico-Legal Jurisprudence and fifty-two articles on Botany. The first was published by a St. Louis house and the second by the Trainer Educational Journal. In 1905 he published a book of poems entitled "Secret Haunt of the Exile," and in 1909 he began the publication of a journal known as the Coroner.

In 1904 Dr. Buxton was elected coroner of Macon county as the candidate of the republican party. He walked over the entire county making his campaign on a capital of sixty-five dollars and winning the election by a majority of sixty-five votes over the head of the ticket. This was the most phenomenal election ever held in the county. In that year he received a majority of thirty-three hundred and seventy. In 1908 Dr. Buxton again became a candidate for the office and was reelected, so that he is the incumbent at the present time.

In 1905 Dr. Buxton was married to Miss Anna Strope, a daughter of Phineas and Mary J. (Zinn) Strope, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. They now have one child, Martha.

Dr. Buxton belongs to various fraternities and social organizations, holding membership with the Knights of Pythias, the Odd Fellows, the Red Men, the Eagles, the Woodmen, the Yeomen, the Brotherhood of American Yeomen, the Royal Neighbors, the Modern Americans, the Modern Brotherhood of America, the Mutual Protective League, the National Protective League, the Order of Pocahontas, the Woodmen of the World, the Woodmen Circle, the encampment of the Rebekah Lodge of the Odd Fellows and the Decatur Club. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. He resides on Cleveland avenue where he owns a good home and other city property, including eight houses valued at fifteen thousand dollars. His life is a notable example of what may be accomplished when one has the will to dare and to do, the courage to face hardships, the endurance to meet difficulties. Coming to realize what might be accomplished if one were fitted for the duties and responsibilities of life, and fired by a laudable ambition to advance, Dr. Buxton has directed his efforts into channels demanding strong mentality and liberal culture. He is today a forceful man who has won for himself a creditable position in the world of affairs; becoming recognized as an influential factor in the city which he has chosen as his home.

CHARLES A. DENISON.

Honored and respected by all, no man in Argenta occupies a more prominent position in public regard than C. A. Denison. His life record, too, proves that success is not a matter of genius, as held by some, but is rather the outcome of clear judgment, experience and close application, for while Mr. Denison inherited much of his property, in its management and in further investment he has proven his ability, his keen sagacity and his unfaltering enterprise. Those qualities are always indispensable concomitants of success and have been features in giving to him the creditable place which he occupies in the ranks of Macon county's leading business men. A native of Illinois, Mr. Denison was born in Newberg, September 24, 1868, the only son of Dr. Charles N. Denison, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work.

He was reared in Macon county, largely acquiring his education in Decatur, where he was graduated from the high school with the class of 1888. He afterward became a student in the State University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, completing the four years' literary course, and after his graduation he took up the study of law, devoting five and a half years to the mastery of the principles of jurisprudence. He was then graduated in the class of 1894 and located in Chicago, where he engaged in practice and also became a teacher and professor in a Chicago law school. He continued a member of the bar of that city until 1904, when he retired to Argenta to care for his father and look after his interests here. In the management of the father's estate he displays marked busi-

ness ability, carefully supervising investments and making new ones as his judgment dictates.

On the 12th of December, 1905, Mr. Denison was married to Miss Mary O. Colby, who was reared and educated in Decatur. They established their home in Argenta, where they now reside but they have a wide acquaintance in Decatur and other parts of the county and are eagerly welcomed into the best homes of this part of the state. Mr. Denison is a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to the blue lodge, chapter and commandery at Decatur, to the consistory at Peoria and also to the Mystic Shrine of that city. In politics he has been a life long republican but has never sought or desired office, preferring to devote his time to his extensive business interests.

WILLIAM D. CREAMER.

William D. Creamer, whose demise occurred in July, 1908, was for a number of years successfully identified with agricultural interests in Maroa township. His birth occurred in Clermont county, Ohio, in 1861, his parents being John and Elizabeth Creamer, who spent their entire lives in the Buckeye state. The father died while a soldier of the Union army. Unto him and his wife were born six children, namely: Joseph, Mrs. Anna Long, Mrs. Elizabeth Garland, Mrs. Belle Long, William D. and Mrs. Malinda Hill.

William D. Creamer spent the first twenty-two years of his life in Ohio and then came to Illinois, here working as a farm hand for a time. Subsequently he rented a tract of land in Dewitt county, in the cultivation of which he was actively engaged for four years. In March, 1894, he purchased a farm of one hundred and six acres in Maroa township, Macon county, which he operated successfully until his demise and which is now in possession of his widow. He erected a handsome residence and substantial barn and made many other improvements on the property. His labors as an agriculturist were attended with excellent results, and in his passing the community lost one of its most substantial and respected citizens.

In 1887 Mr. Creamer was united in marriage to Miss Minnie M. Grady, a daughter of John D. and Sarah J. (Wray) Grady, who were natives of Pennsylvania. They came to Illinois more than a half a century ago, settling in Dewitt county. John D. Grady died in 1898 but is still survived by his wife, who now makes her home with her children. They had six children, two of whom died in infancy. The others are as follows: Thomas C., Vance R., Mrs. Creamer, and Mrs. Clara A. McKinney, of Macon county. Unto our subject and his wife were born five children, namely: Edna P., whose birth ocurred in 1888 and who is now the wife of Fred Morgenthalor, by whom she has one son, Emanuel; Wray R., who was born in 1890; Hazel B., whose natal year was 1892; Stanley J., whose birth occurred in 1896; and Vance G., born in 1899.

In politics Mr. Creamer was a stanch democrat, while fraternally he was identified with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of Pythias at Maroa. He passed away in the faith of the Methodist church in July, 1908,

and was deeply and sincerely mourned by all who knew him, for his life had been upright and honorable in all its relations. His widow now manages the home farm with the assistance of her sons. She is well known and highly esteemed throughout the community, being a lady of many excellent qualities of heart and mind.

HENRY J. SHAFER.

Henry J. Shafer, a well known farmer and stock-raiser of Macon county, was born near Rochester, Sangamon county, Illinois, August 16, 1870. He is a son of Joseph and Caroline (Wilkin) Shafer, both of whom were born in Westphalia, Prussia. The father was born August 4, 1828, and the mother September 19, 1824. They came to America in 1854 in the same ship, landing at New Orleans and traveling by water to Elkhart, Illinois. Mr. Shafer was provided only with money enough to carry him to the end of his journey and it was two years before he was married. That happy event occurred in March, 1856, at Springfield, Illinois, and for several years Mr. Shafer rented land near Riverton and also near Pleasant Plains, locating later at Rochester. He prospered in his work and in the fall of 1872 purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Niantic township, Macon county, which became the home place and cost forty-seven dollars and fifty cents per acre. He moved to his new home in March, 1873, and began making improvements, building a comfortable, two-story house of six rooms in 1882. As his means increased he purchased more land until he had acquired four hundred acres in sections 21 and 28 and gained a reputation as one of the substantial farmers of the region. He departed this life March 26, 1904, his wife have been called away August 6, 1890. Their remains were interred in Calvary cemetery, at Springfield, Illinois. Mr. Shafer was identified with the democratic party and was a stanch adherent of the Roman Catholic church of which his wife was also a member. He served as trustee of St. Mary's church at Illiopolis in the early days.

Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Shafer: Theresa, the wife of Peter Stoffel, of Springfield; Mary, who married Henry Harbauer and lived at Springfield, departing this life August 27, 1890; Joseph, a railway man of Englewood, Illinois, who married Betty O'Brien, of Springfield, and is the father of three children, Joseph, Leo and Marie; William, a farmer of Illiopolis, who was born in Sangamon county November 28, 1863, and married Katie Dwyer, of St. Louis, May 4, 1910; Anthony, who was born in 1865 and died in November, 1909; Elizabeth, who married John Swanson, of Springfield, in 1895, and departed this life March 30, 1904, leaving two children, Clara and Samuel; and Henry J., our subject.

Henry J. Shafer was brought by is parents to Macon county in his infancy and has ever since made his home on the farm which his father acquired in this county and has become one of the leading farmers of Niantic township. He has been very successful in his vocation, and in 1906 purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Sangamon county, near his home, at one hundred

and fifty-five dollars per acre. His brother William bought eighty acres in the spring of 1910 on section 28, Niantic township, for which he paid one hundred and eighty-five dollars per acre, and also one hundred and sixty acres in Stoddard county, Missouri.

On the 24th day of February, 1903, Henry J. Shafer was united in marriage to Miss Mary Kirby, of Illiopolis, and two children have been born to them, Helena and William Kirby. Mr. Shafer has been prominently connected with various movements of the farmers aiming to eliminate the middleman and is a director of the Illiopolis Farmers Grain Company which he and his brother assisted in organizing. He is a stockholder in the Niantic Farmers Elevator Company, a state director of the Farmers Grain Dealers Association of Illinois and was assistant secretary of the Macon County Farmers Intitute in 1908 and 1909. He has also been a delegate to the County Farmers Congress and also to the state convention of farmers. He is interested in all matters pertaining to education and serves with great acceptance as school trustee of his district. He is highly popular among his brother farmers on account of his public spirit and the interest he has shown in agriculture and stock-raising, without expectation of direct financial reward. He is earnest, patriotic and capable and is justly entitled to high credit for the excellent work he has accomplished.

WILLIAM N. HUSTON.

Upon the farm have been reared many of the best men and women of our republic and it is a fact often demonstrated that in agricultural regions are developed the strongest bodies and brightest minds, so that the cities are constantly looking to the farm for new supplies of energy and ability. However, not all the promising young men are absorbed by the cities. Many of our most successful and progressive farmers were born in the same county where they now live and among this number is William H. Huston, whose name stands at the head of this review.

He was born in Macon county, March 2, 1865, and is a son of Ulysses and Matilda (McRay) Huston, natives of Ohio, the former born in 1828 and the latter in 1829. The father emigrated to Illinois about 1840 and settled in Macon county. He first occupied the homestead where our subject lives but finally took up his residence on eighty acres in the same neighborhood, where he continued to make his home until he was called away in 1902. He was prominently identified with the republican party in this county and served for a number of years as justice of the peace. He was a man of marked ability and one who inspired confidence and respect in all with whom he came in contact. The mother of our subject departed this life in 1885. There were seven children in the family: Phoebe, now Mrs. R. McKay; Robert; Oris; Martha, now Mrs. B. Major; Jane, deceased; William N., our subject; and Minnie, now Mrs. J. Tory.

William N. Huston was educated in the public schools and after laying aside his books continued with his father upon the farm until arriving at twenty-

MR. AND MRS. W. N. HUSTON

one years of age, when he took unto himself a life companion and began farming upon his own account by renting land in the neighborhood. He is engaged in general farming, stock-raising and is recognized as one of the substantial and clear-headed men of his community.

In 1886 Mr. Huston was united in marriage to Miss Irene Major, a daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Beal) Major, natives of Ohio, who came to Illinois and here established a home. They were the parents of nine children, eight of whom are now living. To Mr. and Mrs. Huston three children were born: Florence, born in 1887, who married Frank Jones, of Mt. Zion, and has two children, Orval Fayette; Lola, born in 1892, who married Robert Ford and has become the mother of two children, Monta and Roy, the family living with our subject; and Roy, born in 1894, who is also living at home. In 1897 Mr. Huston was called upon to mourn the departure of his beloved wife, who was an estimable woman of many noble qualities and had many friends in this neighborhood who sincerely mourned her death.

Mr. Huston has been successful in his farming operations, as he knows how to direct his energies so as to produce a desired result. He is a man of good common sense, always straightforward in his dealings and fully alive to the importance of keeping informed as to the development along agricultural lines. Politically he is in sympathy with the republican party, believing that its principles are better adapted than those of any other party for the maintenance of the Union. Socially he holds membership in Lodge No. 1597 of the Modern Woodmen of America, of Bearsdale, Illinois.

SOLOMON B. BETZ.

Among the residents of Argenta who have retired from active business life and in well earned rest are enjoying the fruits of their former toil Solomon B. Betz is numbered. For twenty-seven years he was closely associated with the farming and stock-raising interests of Macon county and is still the owner of two good farms in Friends Creek township. He has lived in this county since 1867 and has, therefore, witnessed much of its growth and progress. Pennsylvania numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred in Northumberland county, December 17, 1838. His father was Solomon Betz, a native of the Keystone state, and his grandfather also bore the name of Solomon. He was a native of Germany, born in 1735, and in young manhood came to the new world. Here he espoused the cause of the colonists in the struggle for independence, serving as a soldier in the Revolutionary war. His son, Solomon Betz, Jr., was reared to manhood in the Keystone state and, having arrived at years of maturity, was married in Northumberland county to Miss Catherine Dunkel, a native of Pennsylvania. In 1839 he removed to Pickaway county, Ohio, and developed a farm upon the Pickaway plains, converting a tract of wild land into productive fields. Upon that place he reared his family and afterward came to Illinois, spending his last years in Champaign county. His wife, however, had died in Ohio.

Solomon B. Betz, whose name introduces this record, was reared on the old home farm in the Buckeye state. He is largely a self-educated man because of the poor condition of the schools in the period of his youth and also because his labors were needed upon the farm when he was yet in his minority. His patriotic nature was aroused by the attempt of the south to overthrow the Union and on the 16th of August, 1862, he joined the Ninetieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, being assigned to duty with Company F. The regiment became a part of the Army of the Cumberland and Mr. Betz was first under fire at Richmond, Kentucky, and later at Stone River, where he was wounded by a shell in the right arm. This disabled him for four months. He later participated in a number of skirmishes as the troops followed General Morgan in Kentucky and afterwards he participated in the battles of Missionary Ridge, Chickamauga and Nashville. He was with the command that drove General Hood out of Tennessee and afterward participated in the battle of Asheville. He sustained a slight wound at Kenesaw Mountain but this did not incapacitate him for duty and he served with his regiment until the close of the war, being mustered out at Nashville and then honorably discharged, in June 1865.

Mr. Betz returned home with a creditable military record, for he had never faltered in the performance of any duty. Making his way northward to Ohio, he and his brother Charles purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which he cultivated for a year and then sold. At that time he came direct to Macon county, Illinois, in company with his brother and they invested in one hundred and sixty acres, which they owned, occupied and operated together for six years, at the end of which time they divided their interests. Subsequently Solomon B. Betz purchased another farm but remained upon the old home place. His second farm comprises one hundred and forty-seven acres, constituting a well improved property. He built a good house on his first place, east of Argenta, and year after year carefully tilled the fields, which responded to his labor in generous harvests. He was thus actively engaged in farming until 1896, when he rented both of his places and removed to Argenta, building there a residence which he now occupies.

On the 31st of March, 1869, Mr. Betz was married in this county to Miss Margaret C. Wilson, a native of the county and a daughter of D. K. Wlison, one of the first settlers, who came from Tennessee to this state. Mr. and Mrs. Betz have three living children: Ida S., now the wife of Robert Fullerton, of Sac county, Iowa; Arthur, who is married and is a resident farmer of Macon county; and Willis, who is married and occupies the old home farm west of town. The parents are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church of Argenta and Mr. Betz belongs to the Grand Army post at that place, of which he has served as chaplain for twenty-six years. He has also been post commander and is popular with his old army comrades. In politics he is a republican, supporting the party where state and national issues are involved but casting an independent local ballot. He first voted in 1860, when he supported Bell and Everett, but in 1864 gave his political allegiance to Abraham Lincoln and has voted for each presidential nominee of the party since that time. He would never consent to hold political office but for twenty-one years has acted as school trustee. In all matters of citizenship he is loyal and progressive, mani-

festing the same fidelity to the old flag that he displayed when he followed the starry banner upon the battlefields of the south. His capable management of his farming interests has made him a prosperous resident of the county and his example proves what may be accomplished through determined and resolute purpose and straightforward dealing.

GEORGE A. JIMISON.

Farming interests claimed the time and energies of George A. Jimison for many years and he is still the owner of a good tract of land adjoining Argenta—a tract of one hundred and ninety-two acres. In addition to this he owns another place of one hundred and seventy acres and a third farm of eighty acres, all three being well improved places which adjoin the corporation limits of the town. His home is an attractive residence in the village and from this point he supervises his agricultural affairs. He is one of Macon county's native sons, his birth having occurred within a mile of Argenta on the 10th of September, 1841. His father, George Jimison, was born in Scotland in 1810 and was a son of John Jimison, who came from the land of hills and heather to the new world, settling first in Canada, where his son George was reared to manhood. Having reached adult age, the latter married Hannah Jimison, a native of Canada, and for several years followed farming in that country. He afterward crossed the border into the United States, making his home near Bucyrus, Ohio, until 1839, when he came to Macon county, Illinois. This was then a wild and unimproved district, much of the land still belonging to the government, while the work of development seemed scarcely begun. He entered one hundred and sixty acres near the present site of Argenta and began the development of a farm. Upon this place he spent his remaining days, continuing its cultivation until his death, which occurred in April, 1853, when he was forty-three years of age. His wife survived him until 1857, when she, too, was called to her final rest.

George A. Jimison was reared upon the old homestead farm, remaining with his father until the latter's death and then with his mother until her demise. He was only sixteen years of age when his mother passed away, at which time he inherited a part of the old homestead and later he bought out the interest of the other heirs in the property. He has made farming his life work and that he has been industrious and energetic is indicated in the success which he now enjoys.

In February, 1868, Mr. Jimison was united in marriage to Miss Molly J. Woodward, who was born in this state and reared in Macon county. The young couple began their domestic life on a farm west of Argenta, having there forty acres of land, to which Mr. Jimison added by purchasing the interests of the other heirs in the old homestead until his holdings embraced one hundred and sixty acres. He continued the work of improvement and development and success crowned his labors. As his financial resources increased he added to his holdings by investing in a farm of one hundred and seventy acres east of Argenta

and, removing to that place, built thereon a good residence and barns and added other modern equipments and accessories. Afterward he made purchase of a farm of eighty acres south of the town and was busily engaged in the cultivation of his fields through all the passing years until 1899, when he rented his farms and took up his abode in the town, where he still resides. He carried on general agricultural pursuits, cultivating the crops best adapted to soil and climate and also raising and feeding stock. He handled about a carload of steers and one or two carloads of hogs each year and his business in this connection was extensive and profitable.

In 1869 Mr. Jimison was called upon to mourn the loss of his first wife, who died leaving a son, Theodore, who is now married and resides in Granite City, Illinois. He was a soldier of the United States army for thirteen years, and served in the Spanish-American war with the rank of sergeant major. He has a son, John. After losing his first wife Mr. Jimison was married in 1871 to Mrs. Elizabeth E. Mulinix and their children were: Minnie, the wife of Albert Gould, of Rock Island, Illinois, and the mother of one son, Orin; Lillie, the wife of Bun Parr, of Moline, by whom she has one son, Morris; Mollie, the wife of Charles Majors, of Argenta; Ida, the wife of David Cooper, a farmer living at Argenta; and George W., who is living on one of his father's farms. He is married and has four sons: Purley, Cecil, Paul and Ralph. By her former marriage Mrs. Elizabeth Jimison had two sons: John Mulinix, living in Argenta; and Ord, who is married and occupies one of Mr. Jimison's farms. The mother of these children passed away in Argenta in 1908 and her remains were interred in the cemetery here.

In his political views Mr. Jimison is a democrat and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day but has no desire for the honors and emoluments of public office. He is a careful, conservative business man who has spent his entire life in Macon county and is well known in Decatur and this part of the state. His life work is represented in three well improved farms which return to him an excellent income and which mark him as one of the representative and progressive agriculturists of the community. He deserves the rest which he is now enjoying, as it has come to him as the fitting crown of his previous earnest and intelligently directed labor.

HENRY JOSTES.

It will be readily acknowledged by those who have studied the history of the United States and are familiar with the nationalities that have contributed to the life and growth of the republic that native sons of Germany have assisted very materially in the upbuilding of the country. Thousands of the most promising young men of the fatherland have sought fortune under the stars and stripes and here found a land of opportunity which yields abundantly to the hand of labor and seldom disappoints an aspirant for financial independence who strives energetically and faithfully. Indeed, it is doubtful whether any

other country of the world ever offered such advantages as have been presented for fifty or one hundred years past under the American Union.

Henry Jostes at eighteen years of age, a native of Germany and ambitious to win an honored name for himself, bade farewell to familiar scenes and emigrated to this country. Here he found what he longed for and today, living retired at the town of Macon, Macon county, he occupies an elegant residence located on a beautiful tract of five acres, which he has ornamented with trees and shrubbery, making it one of the most desirable homesteads in the county. He is also the owner of a fine Macon county farm and is recognized as one of the leading men of the county. He was born April 8, 1839, a son of William F. and Catherine Jostes. The parents came to America in 1870, the mother passing away soon after her arrival and the father in 1877, when he had arrived at the age of seventy-seven years. There were four children in their family, two of whom are now living: Henry, our subject; and Amelia, now the wife of John Rahler, a farmer of Shelby county, Illinois.

Educated in the common schools of his native land, Henry Jostes came to the United States in 1857 and began his active career on a farm where the town of Boody, Macon county, now stands. In July, 1861, he responded to the call of President Lincoln and enlisted in Company E, Forty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which served in the Sixteenth Army Corps and later in the Seventeenth Army Corps under command of Generals McPherson and Sherman. He participated in a number of leading battles, among which were Fort Donelson and Hatchie's Run and also in the sieges of Corinth and Vicksburg. He was present in many minor engagements and continued in the army for three years, receiving his honorable discharge at Springfield, Illinois, in August, 1864. He was born of good fighting material and was a brave and true soldier for the Union. After returning home Mr. Jostes took unto himself a wife and purchased forty acres of wild land in Blue Mound township, Macon county, which he proceeded to develop with a patience and industry that led to highly satisfactory results. Later he acquired more land and at the present time is the owner of a highly improved farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Blue Mound township. He and his wife began their married life in a little log cabin but after a few years this was replaced by a neat two story frame residence, which was provided with all the comforts of life. In 1896 Mr. Jostes located in Macon, where he and his wife are enjoying the fruits of many years of well applied labor.

On the 12th of January, 1865, Mr. Jostes was united in marriage to Miss Julia Shoop, born in Pennsylvania, March 3, 1843, and a daughter of Daniel and Lena (Yoder) Shoop. She came with her parents to Macon county when she was four years of age and here the father died in 1854, the mother being called away at the age of sixty-one years, in 1888. Of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Shoop three are now living: Julia, herein mentioned; Matilda, the wife of Jacob Snider, a farmer living near Sterling, Illinois; and Rosa, who married Peter Moss, who followed farming near Blue Mound, Macon county. Eight children blessed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jostes: Emma, the wife of William Fedderman, a farmer living near Moweaqua; Agnes, deceased in infancy; William, who graduated from Brown's Business College of Decatur and

is a farmer of Pleasant View township; Mary, now Mrs. Richard Dorsey, of Pleasant View township; Frederick, who also graduated from Brown's Business College and is living in this county; Benjamin, of this county; Lena, the wife of Frank Phillips, of Macon; Lillie; and Effie.

Mr. Jostes is an adherent of the republican party and holds membership in the Grand Army post at Macon. He has taken a deep interest in educational affairs and served as school director for eleven years, performing his duties with an ability that met the hearty approval of people of the district. His wife and daughters are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are intelligent workers for every good cause. Coming to this country in his young manhood, Mr. Jostes allied himself heartily with its institutions and demonstrated his patriotism by service in support of the flag when the life of the republic was threatened. Always governed by principles of honor and fidelity to right he years ago became recognized as one of the substantial and reliable citizens of Macon county and no man in the county is more highly honored.

HON. JAMES M. GRAY.

The history of the Decatur bar during the past two decades would be incomplete and unsatisfactory were there failure to make prominent reference to Hon. James M. Gray, recognized throughout this period as one of the most distinguished lawyers of Macon county and this part of the state. In no profession is there a career more open to talent than in that of the law and in no field of endeavor is there demanded a more careful preparation, a more thorough appreciation for the absolute ethics of life or of the underlying principles which form the basis of all human rights and privileges. Unflagging application, an intuitive wisdom and a determination to fully utilize the means at hand are the concomitants which insure personal success and prestige in this great profession which stands as the stern conservator of justice. Possessing all the requisite qualities of the able lawyer, Mr. Gray is carving his name deeply upon the history of the courts of central Illinois.

A native of Illinois, Mr. Gray was born in Ramsey, Fayette county, on the 1st of June, 1862, a son of Richard H. and Emily (Hall) Gray, both of whom were descended from prominent southern families. The father was a native of Coles county, Illinois, his parents having removed to this state from Tennessee shortly before his birth. The mother of James M. Gray was born in Fayette county, her parents having come from Kentucky. Richard H. Gray was identified with farming interests during his active life but is now living retired. His wife died in 1887 and about 1890 he removed to Ramsey, where he has since made his home, resting from the arduous cares and labors which occupied his attention in former years. In politics he has ever been an ardent democrat and for a long period was a dominant factor in the local councils of his party. Wherever he has lived he has commanded the respect and good will of his fellowmen.

James M. Gray was reared at home, acquiring his education in the district schools and at Ramsey high school, from which he was graduated with the class of 1880. His thirst for education, however, was not yet satisfied and he entered the Valparaiso (Ind.) University. After a year there spent he took up the profession of teaching, which he followed for three years, when he again entered Valparaiso University and completed the scientific course, being graduated with the Bachelor of Science degree in the class of 1886. He resumed teaching, to which he devoted the succeeding two years but during that period gave the hours that are usually termed leisure to the study of law under the preceptorship of Henry & Foulke, of Vandalia, Illinois. He then returned to the Valparaiso University for a two years' course in law and on its completion was graduated with the class of 1890, the degree of LL. B. being conferred upon him. The last year he was honored with election as president of his class and during his college days he was prominent in debate and in the political activity of the school. His ability in debate brought him before the public in political connections and has ever kept him a prominent factor in political circles because of his power in presenting clearly, strongly and forcibly the vital and scientific questions of the day.

Following the completion of his law course in June, 1890, Mr. Gray came at once to Decatur, was admitted to the Illinois bar and entered into partnership with James M. Lee for the practice of law. A year later, however, their business relations were dissolved and Mr. Gray practiced independently for fourteen years but on the 1st of July, 1905, he formed a partnership with I. A. Buckingham and has since been a member of the well known firm of Buckingham & Gray, occupying today a most conspicuous and honorable position in connection with the work of the courts in their district. For years Mr. Gray was retained as attorney on some of the most prominent criminal cases of this section but in more recent years he has confined his attention to a more general line of practice. The firm of Buckingham & Gray is one of the most prominent in this section of the state, their clientage extending over several counties. Mr. Gray is particularly strong in argument and seldom if ever at fault in the application of a legal principle. Moreover, he prepares for defense as well as attack and in many forensic encounters he has come off victor in the strife.

His activity and influence in political circles are well known. He has taken an active part in politics since 1884 and in 1888 was one of the prominent campaign speakers. In the former year he attended the national democratic convention in Chicago, which nominated Grover Cleveland, although at the time he was only twenty-two years of age. There he became acquainted with a number of the distinguished political leaders of the country. In 1890, when he came to Decatur, he engaged actively in politics here and within a month was placed on the democratic county committee and in the spring of 1891 was made chairmain of the city committee. He has been a delegate to every state convention since establishing his home in Decatur and for the past twelve years has been chairman of the delegation. In 1898 he was elected to the Illinois legislature from this senatorial district, was reelected in 1900 and again in 1902 and 1904, when he refused longer to accept the nomination. During the eight years

of his service he took a most active part in legislative work, was chairman of the democratic caucus during the third term and chairman of the democratic steering committee during the fourth term, which appointment gave to him the floor leadership of his party. His personal popularity and the confidence uniformly reposed in him as a citizen, public spirit and loyal devotion to the general good is indicated in the fact that he is the only democrat that was ever elected for more than two terms from this district in the history of the party. In 1908 he was elected a delegate to the national convention at Denver and he is now serving as chairman of the democratic city committee as well as chairman of the executive committee of the county organization. Since 1898 he has been a recognized leader in democratic ranks in this part of the state and in this as in every other cause which he champions Mr. Gray is untiring in his efforts to attain success.

On the 14th of June, 1894, occurred the marriage of James M. Gray and Miss Lillian M. Belt, of Bunker Hill, Illinois, a daughter of J. H. Belt, formerly a prominent banker of that place but now deceased. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Gray have been born two children, James M. and Lucile B. Fraternally Mr. Gray is connected with the Masonic lodge, is also a Knight Templar Mason and a member of Peoria Temple of the Mystic Shrine. He also holds membership in Decatur Lodge No. 401, B. P. O. E., and along more strictly social lines is connected with the Decatur Club and the Country Club of Decatur. His cooperation in community affairs is of a practical resultant character. He belongs to the Chamber of Commerce and aids in various measures which that organization promotes for the welfare of the city. His professional connections are with the local Bar Association and with the Illinois State Bar Association and of the former he is a director. His advancement at the bar has followed as the natural sequence of his ability and earnest purpose. He is remarkable among lawyers for the wide research and provident care with which he prepares his cases. His logical grasp of facts and principles of the law applicable to them has been another potent element in his success and the remarkable clearness of expression and adequate and precise diction which enables him to make others under stand not only the salient points of his argument but his very fine gradations of meaning may be accounted one of his most conspicuous gifts and accomplishments.

WILLIAM T. BEADLES.

William T. Beadles was a native of Cass county, Illinois, born May 13, 1838, and he lived a remarkably active and useful life of sixty-six years. The family settled in Macon county in 1851 and for over fifty years Mr. Beadles was a resident of this county, except for a few years which he spent in Moultrie county, Illinois. He was a farmer and conducted his affairs so prudently that he acquired a handsome competence, represented by one of the finest farms in the county. After a useful and well spent life he passed away February 18, 1904.

MR. AND MRS. W. T. BEADLES

In 1862 Mr. Beadles was happily married to Miss Charlotte C. Hopkins of Macon county, who survives her husband and is now living in a substantial home at No. 1040, West Wood street, Decatur, Illinois. She recently disposed of the farm and is spending the evening of her life surrounded by those whom most most she loves. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Beadles, eight of whom are now living namely: H. H., a farmer living one mile south of Decatur; M. D., a farmer of Barstow, Texas; C. R., a real-estate dealer of Chicago; W. T., Jr., who died in Nelson, British Columbia, in 1901; Marquis H., a letter carrier of Decatur; Mrs. Katherine Cable, whose husband is a Methodist minister of Woodbine, Iowa; Mrs. Sarah Burke, whose husband is a mail clerk on the Wabash Railroad from Toledo to St. Louis and lives in Decatur; Frank Bartram, who died in 1891 at the age of ten years; Mrs. Grace McHose, whose husband is assistant editor of the Times-Herald at Burns, Oregon; and Albert N., with the Evangelical Publishing Company of Chicago.

At the age of seventeen years William T. Beadles was converted to the Christian religion at Mount Zion, Macon county, and from that time during a period of forty-nine years he was an earnest member of the Methodist church. It became a fixed principle of his life to work for others. He served as Sunday school teacher, steward, class leader, trustee, Sunday school superintendent, and at all times put his entire energy into his work. He was for many years township president of the Sunday school and at the time of his death, notwithstanding his advanced years, was superintendent of the home department in the Sunday school of Grace church and superintendent of a mission Sunday school. He devoted the tenth of all his yearly income to the cause of religion and sacredly adhered to this principle through life. He was an uncompromising opponent of the liquor traffic and did everything possible to advance the cause of temperance. Learning at one time that a union church was about to be sold under mortgage he assumed the debt, secured a preacher and kept the church alive. His life has been epitomized by one who said: "He lived on the heights of constant trust." It is said that even in his last illness, while in delirium, he spoke as if pleading with some individual to come to Christ.

ANDY MILLER.

Among the representative men of Macon county is Andy Miller, of Niantic township. He is one of the active and capable farmers of a community noted for the ability of its members and, although he has never sought public office or coveted notoriety, he has scored a success in his business and has attained a prosperity which indicates sound judgement and good management. He is a native of St. Clair county, Illinois, where he was born December 1, 1856, a son of John and Rebecca Miller. The father was born in Germany and came to America with his parents when he was a small boy, his father, the grandfather of our subject, being called away very soon after he landed in this country. John Miller grew to manhood in Illinois and in St. Clair county was married to

Rebecca (Thomson) Simpson, who was a native of that county. About 1865 Mr. Miller located in Macon county on the land now ocupied by the subject of this review. He was an industrious and economical man and became the owner of sixty acres in Niantic township and eighty acres of good farming land in Harristown township. He died in January, 1906, and his wife followed him to the grave in December of the same year. There were seven children in their family, all of whom are now living except William, who died at the age of thirty-eight years.

Andy Miller grew up as a farmer boy and was educated in the district schools, becoming well acquainted with the various classes of work upon the farm, so that when he was ready to begin active life for himself he needed little further instruction. He devoted his services to the family until he arrived at twenty-one years of age and then he rented the home farm which he has since cultivated. He and his two sisters, Clemmie and Clara, bought out the other heirs except the interest of one sister, Eva Oliver, who still retains her share in the property. The place has been developed into one of the most productive farms in this part of the country.

Although the father was reared a Catholic and the mother died in the faith of the Baptist church, the subject of this review is not connected with any religious denomination but is friendly toward them all. Industrious and capable in what he undertakes, he has made many improvements on the farm, providing it with modern machinery and facilities, with the necessary buildings, fences and all the accessories of an up-to-date establishment. At the same time he has shown the interest of a patriotic citizen in the progress of the community and has made many friends by his genial spirit which is one of his prominent characteristics. He may, therefore, be regarded as one of the fortunate citizens of Macon county.

JOHN B. MATTHEW, M. D.

Among the citizens of Macon county it would be difficult to name one who occupies a higher place in the esteem of the people of the county than the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this review. A native of Illinois, he has all his life been closely identified with the interests of this state and in professional and business circles has gained a reputation as one of the progressive and substantial men of the commonwealth. He owes his remarkable success mainly to his own energy and ability and to the good judgment that has been a prominent characteristic of his life. Always courteous and affable, his integrity is above question and his honor above reproach. As a physician he has been unusually successful and he stands deservedly high among his professional brethren.

Born in Christian county, this state, March 2, 1850, Dr. Matthew is a son of Oscar F. and Margaret (Britton) Matthew. The father was a native of Virginia, born January 30, 1824, and departed this life February 12, 1881, at the age of fifty-seven years, being buried in Brunk's cemetery at Cotton Hill, Sangamon county. He was one of the early settlers of that county, with which

his name will ever be identified. Arriving here in 1836, he located on a farm near Springfield and as the years passed associated with many of the leading men of Illinois, among whom were Abraham Lincoln, Governor Yates, Senator Cullom and others whose names are prominent in the history of the state. He helped to haul the stone with which the old state house, now the courthouse of Springfield, was built and he and David Beam hauled the tiling from St. Louis that is in Bunn's Bank at Springfield. After the bank was built and ready for business the authorities of the state of Illinois desired to make a deposit of cash and Mr. Matthew, Jacob Bunn and two other men went to St. Louis and brought the money overland to Springfield. There were many thousands of dollars involved and the money, in gold and silver, was packed in ax boxes so as to avoid suspicion on the part of inquisitive persons. It was brought safely through without military guard to the great satisfaction of the state officials and the bank officers.

The mother of our subject was born at Chillicothe, Ohio, December 2, 1821, and died December 16, 1898, after a long life of many useful and unselfish acts. She was the daughter of Benjamin Britton, who was a soldier in the Mexican war. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Matthew, six of whom are living: W. S., prominently identified with the Methodist church, who served as presiding elder of the church at San Francisco, California, for eight years, and is now in charge of the First Methodist church of Boise City, Idaho; John B., of this review; Rebecca Jane, the widow of Daniel Puffenberger, now residing in Edinburg, Illinois; Thomas L., a farmer of Oxford, Kansas; Lafayette Lincoln, a live-stock shipper of Edinburg; and May Matilda, the wife of John T. Vigol, of Mexico, Missouri.

Dr. Matthew received his preliminary education at Cotton Hill Academy, Sangamon county. Laying aside his books for a time, he turned his attention to farming but soon came to the conclusion that his tastes lay along professional lines, and many years' experience have demonstrated that his conclusion was correct. He began his medical studies under Drs. J. H. and L. H. Clark, two prominent practitioners of Taylorville, Christian county, and later entered the American Medical College at St. Louis, graduating after a course of four years, May 22, 1875, with the title of M. D. Later he pursued a post-graduate course at Tulane University of New Orleans and in 1909, in recognition of his distinguished services, was granted the honorary degree of M. D. by Bennett Medical College of Chicago. Dr. Matthew began practice at Mount Auburn, Illinois, where he continued with marked success for seventeen years, but on the 9th of November, 1892, he located at Blue Mound, where he has since continued.

On the 24th of March, 1868, Dr. Matthew was united in marriage to Miss Amanda E. Lawley, who was born at Crow's Mill, Sangamon county, June 9. 1849, and is a daughter of William B. and Sarah (Duncan) Lawley. Her father was a native of Tennessee, born in 1820, and her mother was born in the same state in 1830. Mr. Lawley, who was a farmer of Sangamon county, departed this life in 1880, his wife being called away fourteen years later. Their remains were interred in Cotton Hill cemetery. Eight children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Lawley, four of whom are now living. The family record is as follows: D. W., who at the age of seventy-five is now living retired at Cotton Hill, Illi-

nois; Elijah, deceased; Amanda E., now Mrs. Matthew; Sarah, the wife of William Knotts, of Chatham, Sangamon county; Leonard W., a farmer of Cotton Hill; James P., now postmaster of Glenarm, Sangamon county; and Thomas and Jerome, deceased. Three of the sons performed valiant service under the stars and stripes in the war of the Rebellion, these being D. W., Elijah and James P., who were members of the One Hundred and Fourteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry under Colonel Samuel Shoup.

Five children have been born unto Dr. and Mrs. Matthew, three of whom died in infancy, and Charles Edgar died at the age of thirty years. William Oscar Matthew, the only surviving member of the family, was born at Mount Auburn, July 17, 1881. After attending the public schools, he graduated from the high school of Blue Mound and for five years was a student at the Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois. After completing his education he turned his attention to farming and has charge of four hundred and fifty-nine acres, which originally belonged to his father, but of which two hundred and eighty acres had been deeded to the son. Here he has engaged extensively in general farming and in the raising of cattle, hogs and sheep. In 1907 he was united in marriage to Miss Bessie Beckett, a daughter of John B. Beckett, of Blue Mound. She was a student of Northwestern University and is an accomplished lady of fine mental endowments. They have one son, Solon Beckett Matthew, who was born April 7, 1910.

Dr. Matthew is actively identified with a number of medical societies and for ten years past has been treasurer of the Illinois State Eclectic Medical Society. He is a member of the American Medical Association, the Illinois State Medical Society, the National and Illinois State Eclectic Medical Societies, the Macon County Medical Society and other organizations of a similiar nature. He is examiner for the Equitable Life Insurance Company of New York; the Franklin of Springfield; the Prudential; the Fidelity Mutual and the Bankers Life Insurance Companies of Illinois and of Des Moines, Iowa; and the John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company and others; and is also examiner for a number of fraternal organizations. He has for a number of years been a member of the Masonic order and has taken the blue lodge and Royal Arch degrees. In politics he is a stanch republican. Dr. Matthew has been an extensive traveler in this country, beginning in 1876, when he visited Philadelphia and other eastern cities. In 1902 he and his wife made an extensive tour of the west and three years later they visited New Orleans and the south. In 1909 the Doctor spent two months in Texas and Mexico and few men are better informed concerning the resources and possibilities of America. In business affairs he has been highly successful and in addition to his farm he owns eighteen tenant houses and one of the most beautiful private residences in this part of the state. He has through life been a close observer, thus learning a great deal that is not laid down in books, and is a generous contributor to all worthy enterprises. He is a willing worker in every cause that seeks to advance the community or to alleviate the ills of those less fortunate than himself. In his good works he finds a sympathetic assistant in his estimable wife, who has proven in all respects a worthy helpmate. Dr. and Mrs. Matthew are both members of the Methodist

church and she is actively connected with the Ladies' Aid Society, the Missionary Society of that organization and also with the Order of the Eastern Star. As leaders in their community they deserve prominent mention in the history of Macon county.

JACOB E. CHAPMAN.

Jacob E. Chapman, a prosperous farmer of Blue Mound township, Macon county, who has won his way to fortune through many difficulties, was born in Norfolk, England, February 20, 1848. He is a son of John and Mary Ann (Wymer) Chapman and came with his parents to America when he was five years of age. The family stopped for a time in New York and later moved to Indiana, finally locating in Macon county, this state, in 1864, where the parents were called to their reward. Eleven children were born to them, six of whom are now living: Jacob E.; J. M., a resident of Decatur; Delbert and William W., both of Blue Mound township; John W., of Decatur; and Ida, the wife of Frank Brown, of Blue Mound township. Those deceased are: Charles, who died at twenty years of age; Elizabeth, who became the wife of Newton Howland; Harriet, who married John Howland; Margaret, who married Irvin Hill; and one who died in infancy.

Jacob E. Chapman possessed little opportunity for education but attended the public schools for a short time in New York and later in Indiana. At fourteen years of age the family requiring his assistance, he began working on his own account, receiving five dollars per month, and of this amount he gave half to his parents. At fifteen he was receiving seven dollars per month and at sixteen his wages were advanced to fifteen dollars per month, half of which he contributed to the family treasury. The first man he worked for near Decatur was George Forest, who has long been dead. He returned to Indiana for a year and then again took up his residence near Cerro Gordo and Oakley, Illinois, receiving as high as forty dollars per month for his labor. At thirty-one years of age he was married and settled on eighty acres in Macon county, which he leased for five years. This land is located in section 5, Blue Mound township, and now belongs to Mrs. Chapman. She also own twenty acres of timber land on section 31 and he is the owner of two hundred and ninety-five acres on section 5; eighty acres on section 6; eighty acres on section 5; and one hundred and thirty-five acres on section 3. Seven years ago he built a handsome residence and made a number of improvements in 1907, so that the farm is one of the finest properties in the township. He carries on general farming and stock-raising and has been highly prosperous in his undertakings.

On December 24, 1880, Mr. Chapman was united in marriage to Miss Maria Evans, who was born in Blue Mound township, March 26, 1854. She is a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Stith) Evans, her father having been born in Ohio, March 1, 1820, and her mother in Indiana. Mrs. Evans was called away September 12, 1897, and Mr. Evans, May 28, 1910. There were nine children in their family: Amos, who died in 1882 and is buried in Salem cemetery; Jordon, of Blue Mound township; Maria, now Mrs. Chapman; Ruth, the

wife of D. D. Chapman of Blue Mound township; Minnie, the wife of Charles Hagy, of Blue Mound township; Arthur, of Decatur; and Alvin and two others deceased.

To Mr. and Mrs. Chapman five children have been born: Maggie Irene, who was born November 26, 1882, and is now living at home; William E., born March 1, 1885, also living at home; Bessie A., born February 22, 1887, who became the wife of David Albers, of Blue Mound township, and is the mother of two children, Margaret and Helen; Edna E., who was born August 12, 1892, and is living at home; and Katie, born October 25, 1895, also at home.

Mr. Chapman is identified with the Masonic order and has advanced through the Royal Arch degree. He is not connected with any religious organization but his wife is a valued member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church. He supports the principles and candidates of the democratic party and, although he has not sought official preferment, he served with great acceptance for eighteen years as member of the school board. Mrs. Chapman had an uncle, James Stith, in the Civil war, who enlisted from Illinois and died in the army. Mr. Chapman began as a poor boy and by diligence and economy gained a start, making it possible for him to attain the present honorable position he occupies in Macon county. He has a remarkable memory and remembers that the first bushel of corn he planted for himself he purchased of Rev. N. M. Baker of Decatur in 1870, paying at the rate of one dollar per bushel for it. The same year he paid seventy-three cents a bushel for corn to feed his horses. He now lives in comfort, surrounded by every convenience that is to be desired and in possession of ample means for the remaining years of his life. Such are the results of well directed industry.

JAMES ISRAEL LEBO.

South Macon township is the home of a number of capable and enterprising men, who have been instrumental in advancing the interests of the township and enhancing its prosperity. Among the number is James I. Lebo, who owns a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres, which has through his industry and good management been brought to a high state of cultivation. He was born in Tippecanoe county, Indiana, January 1, 1866, and is a son of Jacob and Isabel (Ash) Lebo. The father was the seventh child in a family of nine children and was born in Pennsylvania, coming to Illinois about 1868. He settled in Harristown township, this county, and was engaged in agricultural operations until 1904, when he retired. A republican in politics, he held the office of supervisor of Harristown township one term and for a number of years acted as school director of his district. The mother, a native of Indiana, was born July 5, 1841, and was married March 1, 1864. She had three children: James Israel, the subject of this review; Nellie, who was born February 12, 1877, and died in August of the same year; and Alice, who was born March 17, 1878, and married Luther Miller, of Macon county, now living in Harristown township and is the mother of six children.

James Israel Lebo was educated in the public schools and was reared upon the home farm, where he continued until his marriage, when he purchased the place on which he has since lived. Here he has engaged in general farming and stock-raising and his application has been rewarded by the returns that usually follow well directed labor.

In 1889 Mr. Lebo was married, the lady of his choice being Miss Ida Keagy, a daughter of Stamen and Emily (Glasgow) Keagy, natives respectively of Pennsylvania and Illinois. They were the parents of five children: Ophrah, living at home; Orpha, who died in childhood; Dama, at home; Ida, who was born April 22, 1866, and is now Mrs. Lebo; and Ira, who married Mary Johnston, of Macon county, and is living at Hot Springs, Arkansas. Mr. and Mrs. Lebo have one child, Chester O., born July 23, 1891.

Mr. Lebo is socially identified with South Macon Lodge, No. 467, A. F. & A. M., and Beacon Lodge, No. 434, K. P. He and his wife also hold membership in Lodge No. 344, Order of the Eastern Star. He has been for a number of years an active working member of the republican party and was elected county treasurer in the fall of 1910. He has held several offices of responsibility, serving as supervisor of his township for two terms and acting as chairman of the board during the last year. He was collector of the township one term and has been a member of the school board for fourteen years. He is an earnest believer in holy writ and is a member of the Christian church. He is known as a sincere, straight-forward man, whose word is inviolate and who never forgets a kindly act or deserts a friend.

FRED KIPP.

Fred Kipp is well known in commercial circles in Decatur and his standing among business men is indicated by the fact that he has been honored with the presidency of the Decatur Grocers Association, which position he is filling at this writing, in 1910. He was born in the town of Bunde, near Bielefeld, Westphalia, Germany, May 18, 1862, a son of August and Elizabeth (Hoecke) Kipp. The father, who was a horseshoer and wagon manufacturer, died in the year 1878 at the age of fifty-two years, while his wife, long surviving him, passed away in 1895 when sixty-seven years of age. He was a successful business man and the business which he established is still conducted by his sons in Germany.

Fred Kipp, who was the youngest of the family, was a pupil in the public and high schools of his native country, and after putting aside his text-books entered business circles as clerk in a grocery store, thus receiving his preliminary training alone mercantile lines. The favorable reports which he heard concerning America and its business opportunities led him to seek a home in the new world, and in 1881 he became a resident of Cincinnati, where he remained for one year. In 1882 he arrived in Decatur, where he secured employment in a grocery store, acting as clerk until 1886, when the capital which he had saved from his earnings enabled him to embark in business on his own

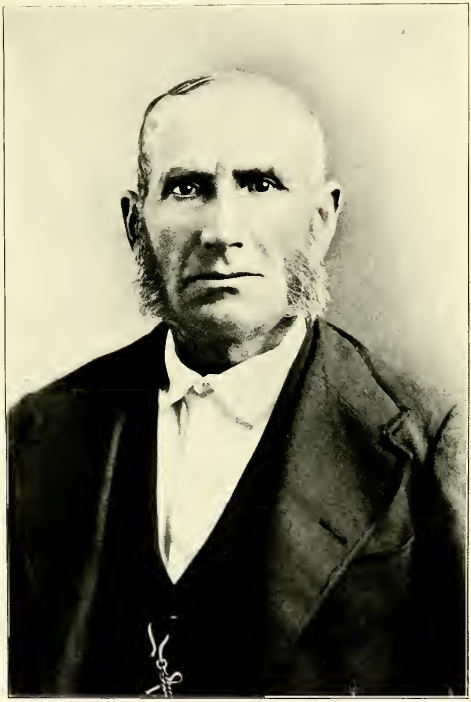
account with Mr. Moran as a partner. This relation was discontinued after eight years, Mr. Kipp purchasing his partner's interest. Later he formed a partnership with George W. Hamer, but since 1906 has carried on business alone. He has always been located in the 600 block on East Eldorado street, where he carries a complete line of staple and fancy groceries, vegetables, etc., catering to the best trade of the city. He has been liberally patronized from the beginning and now has an extensive business that makes his enterprise one of the profitable concerns of the city.

On the 20th of March, 1888, Mr. Kipp was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Meyer, of Decatur, a daughter of Fred and Minnie Meyer, who were early settlers and well known residents of this city but were natives of Hanover, Germany. They came across the ocean in a sailing ship which was nine or ten weeks in making the trip. The father died in 1890 at the age of sixty-five years, and the mother still makes her home in Decatur at the age of eighty-four years.

Mr. Kipp has been active and prominent in public interests of the community aside from business. For ten years he served as a member of the board of supervisors from Decatur township, and since becoming a naturalized American citizen has always given his support to the republican party. He belongs to St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran church and does all in his power to promote its growth and extend its influence. As president of the Decatur Retail Grocers Association he is putting forth earnest effort to promote trade interests. His own prosperity is indicated by the fact that he has become the owner of considerable real estate in the city. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to seek a home in America for here he has found the opportunities which he sought and in their improvement has worked his way steadily upward to success.

HENRY OWEN ACOM.

Henry Owen Acom is a retired farmer living on section 4, Niantic township, where his father located in 1851 and obtained six hundred and eighty acres of land, a part of which he secured through a Mexican land warrant that called for one hundred and sixty acres. He also entered a portion of his farm from the government. The father, Thomas Acom, was born in Yorkshire, England, on the 1st of November, 1819, and was a son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Raines) Acom. His youthful days were spent upon a farm in his native country and there he acquired a fair common school education, after which he learned and followed the carpenter's trade. In 1840, however, he determined to try his fortune on the west side of the Atlantic and came to the new world, making his way to St. Louis, where he had a brother living. There he secured employment at the carpenter's trade and he and his brother were engaged for a time to have charge of the stage stables which sent the stage coaches into Illinois. Thus he made his start in life, giving proof of his industry and ability and therefore gradually working his way upward.



THOMAS ACOM

On the 31st of March, 1844, Thomas Acom was married in Morgan county, Illinois, where he had been residing for a year, to Miss Juliana Munson, who was a native of Emmitsburg, Maryland, and was a daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (McDonald) Munson. Mrs. Acom had removed to Morgan county, Illinois, when she was a young lady of about twenty years, making her way to her brother's home in 1838. After a year or more spent in Morgan county following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Acom removed to Sangamon county, Illinois, where he rented land, and during the period of their residence there three children were born. In March, 1850, the family arrived in Macon county and in 1851 took up their abode on what has since been known as the homestead farm. It was there that Thomas Acom spent his remaining days, diligently devoting his time and attention to general agricultural pursuits and at the same time faithfully performing every duty of citizenship that devolved upon him. He was ever mindful of his obligations toward his fellowmen and to the community at large and no trust reposed in him was ever betrayed in the slightest degree. In politics he was an earnest republican and for many years served as supervisor of Niantic township, discharging his duties with promptness and fidelity. The cause of education found in him a warm friend and he aceptably filled the office of school director for many years. He was always foremost in all good things for the benefit of the community and was a strong temperance man. On one ocasion he and a friend bought out a saloon and then poured the whiskey in the ditch that no one might be the victim of its power of inebriation. He had the moral courage of his convictions in every respect and stood fearlessly in support of what he believed to be right. He was reared in the faith of the Church of England and while he was never identified through membership with any church here, he assisted efficiently in raising money to pay off the indebtedness of the Methodist Episcopal church in Niantic. He believed in progress along agricultural as well as other lines, was an active member of the Grange and of the Farmers Club and was the first man to tile land in Niantic township.

The death of Thomas Acom occurred on the 20th of September, 1899, about eighteen months after the demise of his wife, who passed away March 28, 1898.

In the family of this worthy couple were eight children. Sarah Elizabeth, who was born in Sangamon county, Illinois, is still living. Sophia became the wife of Silas Grosh and for a time they made their home in Macon county but afterward removed to Chicago. At her death Mrs. Grosh left three children: Mary Laura, John Thomas and Frank Milton. The last named is married and has one child, Frances, living in Chicago. Henry Acom married Belle Harnsbarger. John W., born in this county, wedded Miss Mary J. Coble and lives in Moultrie county, Illinois. He has four children: Thomas Herman, Owen Huber, William Henry and Hazel Mildred. Martha Jane Acom became the wife of George Jacobson and died leaving one child who passed away soon afterward. Mary Ellen is the wife of Charles Bruce, living in Niantic. Robert Allen died at the age of six years. Laura A. died at the age of nineteen months. The only members of the family now living are Sarah Elizabeth, John W., Henry Owen Acom and Mrs. Bruce. To the son Henry O., we are indebted for the history

of the family. He is following in his father's business footsteps and is now a representative and progressive agriculturist of the community, owning and conducting an extensive and valuable tract of land which readily responds to the care and labor which he bestowes upon it.

LEWIS BRUCE.

Lewis Bruce, deceased, who had by thrift and energy established himself on a farm in section 19, Harristown township, was born in the city of Kiel, Schleswig, Germany, May 15, 1845. He was educated in the public schools of his native city but was early put to work and learned the miller's trade, living at home and assisting in the support of the family, as his father had died. His mother had a sister in America, the wife of George Vree, who was living in this county, and as the family was having a hard contest to keep the wolf from the door, Mr. Vree kindly supplied the money with which the mother and children were able to meet the expense of the journey to Macon county. The subject of this review was then twenty-seven years of age and after working for wages until he became acquainted with the customs and manners of the new world, he began renting land in connection with his brother, their mother keeping house for them. He prospered and in 1880 bought one hundred and seventy-two acres of land in Harristown township, for which he paid forty-eight or fifty dollars per acre. He also acquired twenty acres of timber land and, entering upon his labors with renewed vigor, he became quite successful. He was a very industrious man and, being endowed with unusual energy and strong determination, he soon became recognized as one of the most progressive and in that church the son was baptized and confirmed. He is in sympathy with farmers in the township.

On March 5, 1884, Mr. Bruce was united in marriage to Miss Anna Jensen, who was born in Schleswig, May 29, 1850, a daughter of H. and Dora (Jacobson) Jensen. She had been acquainted with Mr. Bruce in the fatherland previous to his departure for America and at his solicitation she came upon the long journey of many thousand miles and joined him in Niantic, where the marriage ceremony took place soon after her arrival. The beloved husband was called from earthly scenes March 27, 1889, and his death in the height of his usefulness was deeply deplored by the entire neighborhood, as he was greatly respected on account of his many worthy qualities. There was one son, Burchard Jensen, born December 29, 1886, and three months after the death of her husband Mrs. Bruce returned to her old home in Germany, where her son was educated. He graduated from the high school in 1903 and in the summer following returned with his mother to America, coming to this county. In 1908 a new and commodious residence was erected and in 1910 the son built a new barn from timber which was cut on the land which his father bought many years before.

Both Mr. Bruce and his wife were reared in the German Lutheran faith and in that church the son was baptized and confirmed . He is in sympathy with

the principles of the republican party and cast his first presidential ballot for Mr. Taft in 1908. Socially he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and the esteem in which he is held by his brethren is evidenced by the fact that he is at present worthy adviser of the lodge. Mrs. Bruce is a woman of fine instincts, possessing many of the noblest characteristics of the Teutonic race, is steadfast, patient and true in anything she undertakes, a self-sacrificing mother to her son and a generous given to any cause that aims to assist those less fortunate in wordly possessions than herself.

HENRY SHLAUDEMAN.

Various business enterprises have profited by the intelligently directed effort, keen insight and careful management of Henry Shlaudeman, who is numbered among the most prominent of the sons of Germany who have made Decatur their home. He was born in the town of Wildehausen in the province of Oldenburg on the 13th of January, 1834, a son of John and Elizabeth Shlaudeman, who remained residents of the fatherland until 1846 and then sailed for the United States with their family to enjoy the broader opportunities of the new world. They established their home in Cincinnati and Henry Shlaudeman, who at that time was a youth of twelve summers, learned the trade of a tinner and coppersmith. He served an apprenticeship of six months in Cincinnati and three years and six months in Hamilton, Ohio, and subsequently devoted two years to the trade as a journeyman in Logansport, Indiana. All through this period he was actuated by a desire to one day engage in business on his own acount and to this end carefully saved his earnings until his economical expenditure and industry had made him the possessor of a capital sufficient to enable him to engage in the tobacco business for himself in Logansport. He afterwards worked at his trade, however, in Terre Haute, Indiana, for one year.

Following his arrival in Decatur in 1858, Mr. Shlaudeman became a member of the firm of Joseph Michl & Company, engaged in the cigar and tobacco trade, being associated with that house for four years. In 1862 he became half owner of a brewing business that had been established in 1855 by John Koeler and Adam Keck, his partner being Edward Harpstrite and the firm style of Harpstrite & Shlaudeman was assumed. After the first year Mr. Shlaudeman devoted his time to the manufacturing interests of the business, the essential details of which he speedily mastered. This partnership was continued until Mr. Harpstrite retired on the 1st of October, 1884. He also extended the scope of the enterprise by establishing a bottling department in 1878. During his early life as a brewer he devised and constructed a beer cooler very similar to the Baudelot, now in common use; later a hot air pitching machine; and finally took out patents on a safety valve for bunging chip casks, which devise was in use for many years. This patent is now the property of the Rochester Bunging Apparatus Company. Four years after the retirement of Mr. Harpstrite, Mr. Shlaudeman reorganized the business as a corporation

under the name of the Decatur Brewing Company, of which he became president, while his two sons, Frank and Harry, entered the company as officials, the former as vice president and the latter as secretary and treasurer. In that year the Pfaudler vacuum system was introduced and in 1899 the first fermentation modification of the system was added. In the winter of 1881-2 the first refrigerating machine in the brewery was installed. It proved a failure but a sucessful Boyle machine was put in during the following winter and in 1894 a twenty ton Westinghouse machine was added to the refrigerating plant and a fifty ton De La Vergne machine in the spring of 1907. The brewery has been thus from time to time equipped with the latest improved appliances, the progressive spirit of father and sons being manifest in the continual changes and improvements that have been made. Henry Shlaudeman continued as president of the company until January, 1903, when he retired and was succeeded by his son, Frank Shlaudeman, who is now at the head of the concern.

While remaining actively in business Henry Shlaudeman was identified with various other interests beside the manufacture of beer. In 1889 he erected an ice factory, which afterwards was absorbed by the Decatur Brewing Company and in 1906 became the property of the Decatur Ice Company, of which Frank Shlaudeman is now the president. Henry Shlaudeman became financially and officially connected with other concerns, holding a large amount of stock in the Decatur Coal Company, the Niantic Coal Company, the Hatfield Milling Company, the Decatur Gas & Electric Company, the Citizens Electric Railway Company, the National Bank of Decatur and the Citizens National Bank. Of all of these he has served or is serving as a director.

He was elected in 1882 to represent his ward in the city council, serving as chairman of the finance committee. During the same year he was appointed by the mayor to serve on the library board and reappointed to this same position in 1885, serving six years altogether. In 1898 he became one of the heavy stockholders of the Citizens National Bank and for one year was its president but resigned the office in the winter of 1900 on account of ill health. He has since passed the winter months in California, purchasing a home in Pasadena, while the summer months are usually spent in Decatur. He regards this as the real place of his residence because of his long association here and the fact that the great majority of Decatur's citizens are numbered among his friends.

ALVA CURTIS FOSTER, M. D.

Dr. Alva Curtis Foster, a successful medical practitioner of Decatur, was so named in honor of Dr. Alva Curtis, of the Philadelphia Medical College, of which Robert Foster, father of Dr. A. C. Foster, was a graduate physician. Robert Foster not only devoted his life to the practice of medicine but was also one of the early ministers of the Christian church. A native of Kentucky, he was born in 1812 and died in 1875 at the age of sixty-three years. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Mary A. Burnett, was born in Spencer county, Kentucky, and died in Niantic, Macon county, Illinois, in March, 1900, at the

age of seventy-six years. For about thirty years Dr. Foster devoted his time and energies to relieving the sick and to preaching the truths of the gospel. He was a physician of the old school and his work was an effective element in the restoration of health according to the methods then in vogue. He also became a preacher of the Christian church in Decatur in the early days when this city was a small town. He was also well known in Macoupin county, Illinois, especially in the town of Carlinville, where he ministered to the physical as well as the spiritual needs of the people. One of his warm friends of that period was the young attorney, John M. Palmer, who subsequently became governor of Illinois. These two were associated in the organization of the first Masonic lodge in Macoupin county, Dr. Robert Foster being a well known and exemplary representative of the Masonic fraternity. He was practicing medicine in Carlinville at the time of the birth of his son, Dr. Alva Curtis Foster, on the 27th of August, 1847. The latter was the only living son in a family of four children.

From early youth he lived upon a farm in Hancock county, Illinois, his education being largely acquired in the rural schools, while later he was for one year a student in the high school at Virden, Illinois, in his native county. Subsequently he attended the University of Kentucky where he pursued his more specifically literary education from 1869 until 1873. He then engaged in teaching school for three years, after which he devoted his life to preaching until 1882, when he gave up the active work of the ministry and became a student in the Physicians and Surgeons College at St. Louis. He located for practice in Niantic, Macon county, where he remained for four years, and then removed to Blue Mound, where he continued as an active representative of his profession for fourteen years. For over two years he remained at Columbia, Missouri, in practice, removing to that city in order to give his son the educational advantages that could be there secured, and on the expiration of that period he returned to central Illinois and settled in Decatur, where since December, 1902, he has been actively engaged in practice, firmly establishing himself in the public regard as an able, capable physician of wide personal knowledge and marked skill. He belongs to the Decatur Medical Society. Not only has Dr. Foster ministered to the needs of the body but also to the spiritual life as well. For many years he has engaged in preaching, although not accepting regular pastorates. He has officiated at many funerals and now does supernumerary work. His efforts have been untiring for the moral development of the localities in which he has lived and his own life has been an inspiration to others.

On the 7th of March, 1878, in Concord, Illinois, Dr. Foster was married to Miss Anna Harris, a daughter of Dr. John and Elizabeth (Browning) Harris. Her father also was a pioneer preacher of the Christian church as well as a practitioner of medicine for over forty years. Mrs. Foster was born in Washington county, Indiana, August 16, 1857, and her life history closed in Decatur on the 22d of March, 1910. She was a devout Christian woman and a zealous worker in the Central Church of Christ. She took a most helpful part in the missionary work of the church and in other fields of religious activity and her life was filled with the countless little ministries that make the world better, brighter and happier. She found her greatest joy in aiding others and in devoting her life to her husband and children. Her influence can never die

while upon other lives is left the impress of her noble soul. Unto Dr. and Mrs. Foster were born four children: Guy Kennith; Mrs. Ina Harris Lee, of Minneapolis; Olive; and Edythe. The son, now thirty-one years of age, was for three years a student in Eureka (Ill.) College and for one year in Butler College of Indiana, after which he entered Missouri University at Columbia, Missouri, and was there graduated with the class of 1902 with the degrees of A. B. and B. P. E. He afterward engaged in teaching in the high school of Trenton, Missouri, for four years, and is now professor of chemistry in the State University of Colorado. He was married in Trenton, August 5, 1904, to Miss Mary Campbell, and they have one daughter, Dorothy.

Dr. Foster owns a nice residence at No. 961 North Union street. The house in which he was born stood on the present site of the million dollar courthouse of Carlinville, Illinois, the south steps of the building occupying the spot where once stood the old homestead. Dr. Foster's aim in life has been to give all of his children a good education and fitly prepare them for life's responsibilities and obligations. Reared in a Christian home, they are a credit to their parents. Dr. Foster has ever realized, as Abraham Lincoln has expressed it, that "There is something better than making a living—making a life." He has therefore endeavored to fill his years with good deeds and honorable purposes, and because of his ministry to the sick in body and in soul, and because of his ability to point out in each case the path of restoration and benefit, his life has indeed been of worth and value to his fellowmen.

DANIEL W. MOORE.

For forty years a resident of Macon county, Daniel W. Moore has witnessed many changes in his adopted county and has assisted in forwarding many improvements which were only dimly outlined when he first came to this region. Living now on a beautiful farm in section 36, Niantic township, the head of a promising family, he is known as one of the most prosperous citizens in the county. He was born on a farm in County Antrim, Ireland, March 17, 1849, and is a son of Robert and Mary (Murphy) Moore. The father came to America with his family about 1864, making the trip across the ocean in five weeks in a sailing vessel and landing at New York city. Several relatives had preceded him and were located in Montgomery county, Illinois. Accordingly, he came to that county, where he continued upon a farm for several years. In 1869 he and his sons selected a home in Niantic township, Macon county, and removed to that location the year following, having purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land at eighteen dollars an acre. This was wild prairie land, which required a great deal of labor before it was brought to a fair state of cultivation. Here the homestead was established and the father continued until his death, which occurred in 1887. The beloved mother is still living at Niantic at the advanced age of ninety years. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Moore, six sons and three daughters: Robert, of Niantic; Thomas, of Holdrege, Nebraska; Jane who married Samuel Erwin and is now deceased; Daniel

W., our subject; Mary, deceased; William, Alexander and Hugh, all of Niantic; and Ellen, who married Francis Campbell and is now living at Niantic.

The subject of this review was about fifteen years of age when he came to America, the events of the journey making an impression upon his mind which has never been forgotten. He was educated in the common schools and assisted in the work upon the farm, he and his five brothers remaining together and also purchasing land together, until they became the most prominent landholders in this part of the country. One of the farms which they acquired is now one-half mile wide and two miles long, another contains two hundred and forty acres and the farm which is owned by our subject consists of four hundred and thirty acres. The place upon which he began independently comprised one hundred acres but in 1887 he purchased the home in which he now lives. He has made many improvements, has thoroughly modernized every department under his charge and today is recognized as one of the foremost farmers in central Illinois.

On January 10, 1883, Mr. Moore was happily united in marriage, in Perry county, Illinois, to Miss Sarah Cupples, a native of Fairfield county, Ohio, and a daughter of William and Eliza (Stuart) Cupples. Seven children have brightened their home: Elizabeth, Robert, William, D. Leonard, Ray, Mary and Walter. Elizabeth has a fine education and is living at home.

Mr. Moore cast his first vote for General U. S. Grant as president of the United States in 1872 and has never departed from his allegiance to the republican party. Although he has not sought political preferment he has served as assessor of the township and has been a member of the school board for thirty years continuously. He was reared in the Presbyterian faith but has never held membership in any church, although he has acted as trustee of the Methodist Episcopal church at Niantic ever since it was organized. His wife and several of his children are members of that denomination. Fraternally he is identified with Harristown Lodge, No. 431, A. F. & A. M., and has served as its junior warden. He is also connected with the Knights of Pythias at Niantic. He is a man of genial, social qualities and is never so happy as when in his home circle or when dispensing generous hospitality to his friends. The blessings he enjoys are very largely the results of his perseverance and untiring industry—traits inherited from worthy parents and a stanch ancestry.

CHARLES MONROE CARR.

Charles Monroe Carr, who resides on a beautiful farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 34, South Macon township, and is recognized as one of the progressive young citizens of the county, was born in Missouri, April 18, 1878. He is a son of George W. and Nancy (Gibson) Carr, the former of whom was born in Ohio in 1841 and the latter in Missouri in 1847. The father has devoted his attention to farming ever since arriving at manhood except during the Civil war, when he worked in the United States government shops in Missouri. He and his wife are still living. There were ten children in their family, the subject of this review being sixth in order of birth.

Charles M. Carr was educated in the common schools and assisted his father upon the home farm until arriving at twenty-one years of age, after which he began working for wages. About 1900 he came to Illinois and at twenty-eight years of age he took unto himself a wife, soon afterwards moving to Missouri, where he continued for one year. In 1907 he returned to Illinois and is now managing a farm which belongs to his father-in-law, to which he has devoted a great deal of labor, bringing it to a high state of cultivation.

In December, 1906, Mr. Carr was happily united in marriage to Miss Ella Kraschel, who was born March 1, 1878, and is a daughter of Frederick and Nancy Jane (Poe) Kraschel, a record of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Mr. Carr affiliates with Beacon Lodge No. 434, Knights of Pythias, at Macon, Illinois, and is an adherent of the republican party. He is energetic and capable in the calling he has chosen as his life work and as a patriotic citizen and useful member of the community has a high standing among his fellows. Recognizing the opportunities presented in agriculture and stock-raising, he has earnestly applied his abilities, and the neat appearance of the farm and the ample harvests yielded each year give practical evidence of his skill. He and his estimable wife have many friends in Macon county, who are attracted by their worthy qualities.

THOMAS E. O'BRIEN.

An analyzation of the life work of Thomas E. O'Brien indicates the fact that thoroughness is perhaps his predominant characteristic. It is manifest in the minor as well as the more important duties which have come to him. He displays, moreover, a genius for organization that has continued him in the position of sales manager with the Leader Iron Works from the inception of the business and secured his election to the position of vice president, in both of which offices he is still the incumbent.

He was born in the town of Tiskilwa, Bureau county, Illinois, August 26, 1879, his parents being Timothy F. and Margaret (Canty) O'Brien, the former a native of Providence, Rhode Island, and the latter of Bristol, England, although both were of Irish lineage. The mother was brought to this country by her parents when two or three years of age, the Canty home being established in Bureau county, Illinois. In his boyhood days Timothy F. O'Brien went to Bureau county with his parents and there both the father and mother of our subject were reared and after reaching adult age were married. They have since resided in that county, the father devoting his entire life to farming, in which business he is still actively engaged, his home being about four miles from Tiskilwa. His political allegiance has always been given to the democratic party but without desire for or hope of office as a reward for his fealty.

The usual experiences and environment of farm life developed in Thomas E. O'Brien a sturdy boyhood and his intellectual training was received in the public schools of his native county, supplemented by a course in a business col-

THOMAS E. O'BRIEN

lege at Kewanee, Illinois. Through vacation periods he assisted his father and remained upon the home farm until his nineteenth year, at which time he went to Kewanee, Illinois, then quite noted as a manufacturing center. He sought and secured employment in the yards of the Western Tube Works, now the National Tube Works, where he was employed at loading tubes at a wage of seven dollars and eighty cents per week. This was night work. He proved capable and faithful, however, and thereby won promotion, being given a position in the shops where the boilers were built and repaired. For two years thereafter he was engaged on boiler work, learning something of the detail of boiler making. Leaving that position, he entered the employ of the Kewanee Boiler Company at a salary of a dollar and seventy-five cents per day. He found in this new experience that he had only gained the most rudimentary knowledge of boiler making and his real schooling began in his new position. He remained with that company for four years and his determination to learn the business thoroughly and in every detail caused him to devote much time to study aside from the practical experience which he received in the shops. He attended night school during a part of his term of service and in this way, on the expiration of his four years' employment there, he had become a boilermaker in all that the word implies, his proficiency advancing him beyond many who entered the shops about the same time. He then went upon the road as a commercial salesman for the Kewanee Water Supply Company to market a certain portion of the output of the Kewanee Boiler Company.

His position, however, was on a salary basis and after one year the Leader Iron Works of Decatur were organized as a competitive business and Mr. O'Brien resigned his position to associate himself with the new organization. In this connection he was appointed in charge of the sales department and to his ability and enterprise in that capacity much of the success of the firm may be attributed. His thorough knowledge of the business in every phase well qualified him for the superintendency of the sales department and in his capacity as sales manager he has traveled over all North America. He is in fact one of the best known men in his line in the country. Two years after connecting himself with the Leader Iron Works he was made vice president and has since served as the second executive officer. He has, however, continued in complete charge of the sales management and the progressive policy which he has instituted in this connection constitutes one of the chief sources of the company's success and prosperity.

On the 23d of February, 1909, Mr. O'Brien was married to Miss Mary E. O'Neill, of Kewanee, Illinois, and they have one son, Clement Neil. Mrs. O'Brien's parents were Michael and Sarah (Aaron) O'Neill, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of Pennsylvania. Coming to the United States in 1850, the father located in Kewanee, Illinois, where he was engaged in the real-estate business for some years. He died in that city in 1890 and his widow still resides there.

Mr. and Mrs. O'Brien are members of the Catholic church and he is connected with the Knights of Columbus. By his ballot he endeavors to support the men best qualified for office regardless of party ties. Thoroughness, the

faithful performance of each day's duties, close study concerning business conditions, keen insight into every situation and courage to improve the opportunities offered, have been the salient features in the success of Thomas E. O'Brien, a most prominent and honored representative of the industrial interests of Decatur.

CHARLES W. ASHENFELTER.

Charles W. Ashenfelter, a resident of Decatur for about ten years and now well known as a contractor and builder of the city, was born near Fairfield, in Wayne county, Illinois, June 12, 1876, a son of John T. and Elizabeth (Mauck) Ashenfelter, who were natives of Virginia, whence they drove across the country with team and wagon to Wayne county. They left the Old Dominion in the fall of 1865 and reached their destination in the spring of 1866, having stopped for a few months in Indiana. There the father followed farming until his death in December, 1910. The mother died thirty years ago. The Ashenfelter family is of German origin and the first representatives of the name settled near Brock Gap, Virginia, where the grandfather, John Ashenfelter, and the father, John T. Ashenfelter, were both born.

Charles W. Ashenfelter attended the country schools at intervals until twenty years of age but at the age of fourteen years began to learn the carpenter's trade, hewing timber from which to make the frame work for a new house. In those days the carpenters would go into the woods and pick out suitable timber and cut down the trees for whatever purpose they intended them. Mr. Ashenfelter worked for his uncle and his grandfather at fifty cents per day and became thoroughly familiar with the practical side of the business. In 1892 he removed to Lawrence county, Illinois, where he remained for two years but on the expiration of that period returned to Wayne county, where he remained until 1896. He then again went to Lawrence county, where he worked at his trade until 1901, when he came to Decatur, where he has since made his home. In the meantime he had become an expert in carpenter work and immediately after his arrival secured employment at Millikin University, being engaged on the construction of the university and other public buildings and residences during the two years in which he remained in the employ of others. He then embarked in the contracting and building business on his own account in connection with his brother-in-law, W. A. Garber, and in addition to building they have also dealt to some extent in real estate. They are doing speculative building, erecting residences and then selling them and they have put up some of the most attractive homes of the city. Mr. Ashenfelter does his own architectural work, drawing his plans, and his ability in this direction is seen in the beauty of some of the dwellings which he has constructed.

On the 27th of July, 1899, Mr. Ashenfelter was married to Miss Nina R. Garber, of Lawrence county, Illinois, a daughter of S. W. and Katherine S. (Hensberger) Garber. Mrs. Ashenfelter was born in Virginia, which was also the birth place of her parents, who in the year 1894 removed with their family

to Illinois. The father devoted his life to school teaching, preaching and farming. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Ashenfelter have been born three children, Edna K., Mary and James Paul, the last named born December 23, 1909. In his political views Mr. Ashenfelter is a republican and is always able to support his position by intelligent argument, showing that he keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day but he does not seek nor desire office. His religious faith is that of the Church of the Brethren. He has become widely and favorably known in business circles and in the relations of social life and sterling traits of character as manifest in each connection have gained him warm regard.

FERDINAND UHLL.

Ferdinand Uhll, one of the highly respected citizens of Blue Mound, was born in Germany, August 18, 1851, and came with his parents, Ferdinand and Julia Uhll, to America in 1853. The family settled at Edwardsville, Illinois, and the father began working on the railroad but passed away a few months after his arrival at his new home. Of five children in the family, two are now living: Anna, the wife of Christian Hertel, of Kansas; and Ferdinand. The mother was a second time married, in 1855, becoming the wife of Joseph Herman, and by that union three children were born, two of whom are now living: Charles and Antone, both of Christian county, Illinois. The mother departed this life in 1872.

The subject of this review was educated in the public schools of Greene county, Illinois, and remained with his stepfather until eighteen years of age, when he began working by the month for farmers in the neighborhood. In 1878 he commenced farming on his own account and after his marriage he purchased eighty acres of land in Christian county, to which he added from time to time until he now owns a highly developed farm of two hundred and eighty-four acres. As a general farmer and stock-raiser he continued for thirty years, removing on February 15, 1910, to Blue Mound. He is the owner of two threshing machines and has an interest in a third and is recognized as a man of good business ability, who generally succeeds in anything he undertakes.

In 1881 Mr. Uhll was united in marriage to Miss Agnes Pierson, who was born in Macon county, in 1862, and is a daughter of William and Caroline (Hollingsworth) Pierson. Her mother was born September 14, 1834, and died August 22, 1900, being buried in Christian county. Her father is a native of Ohio, born September 11, 1831, and is now living in Christian county, Illinois. Of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Pierson, the following are now living: Mary, of Christian county; James, of Kansas; Agnes, now Mrs. Uhll; Clara, of Shelby county, Illinois; Ollie, of Oklahoma; Bruce, of Christian county; William, also of Christian county.

Nine children came to bless the home of Mr. and Mrs. Uhll: Carrie, born May 15, 1882, who is now the wife of Benjamin Amber, of Christian county, and the mother of one child, Cressie; Annie, born April 12, 1884, who is the wife of Charles Brown, of Christian county, and the mother of three children,

John Everett, Eloise and Kenneth; Marcus, of Christian county, born May 1, 1886, who married Belle Cormaney and has become the father of one child, Delmar; James Benjamin, of Christian county, born August 26, 1888, who married Josie Young; Robert, born June 28, 1893; now living with his brother Marcus; Ferdinand, born October 29, 1895; Eva Grace, born March 8, 1899, and living at home; and Curtis, born January 14, 1904, and also at home. Warren, who was born October 12, 1890, was accidentally shot when eleven years old. He was one of the brightest and most promising members of the family and his death was the greatest sorrow that our subject and his wife have ever been called upon to endure. Six years ago Mr. Uhll suffered the loss of his right hand in a painful accident while operating a machine. He has borne the affliction manfully, accepting it as one of those occurrences which are liable to happen to any man in the active pursuit of his daily vocation.

On the 4th of August, 1906, Mr. and Mrs. Uhll celebrated their silver wedding, about one hundred guests being invited to an elegant dinner prepared by Mrs. Uhll and her daughters, and they received several silver presents, both useful and valuable, which they highly prize as gifts from dear friends.

They occupy one of the most attractive residences of Blue Mound. The house contains eleven rooms and was built by a banker who failed. Hence it was placed on the market. It is beautifully furnished, modern in every respect and would be considered an elegant residence in any city. Mr. Uhll is an advocate of the principles of the republican party and socially holds membership in the Modern Woodmen of America. His wife is a valued member of the Christian church and he has found in her a most capable and helpful assistant in all the years of their journey together—one who has been to him a constant encouragement and support. As a result of their early self-denial and many years of well directed energy they now enjoy the blessings of home and the friendship of the people of the entire community, for it is only by making ourselves worthy of confidence that we can hope to gain the confidence of our neighbors.

C. S. LEWIS.

Fifty-two years ago C. S. Lewis, then a young man of twenty-four, arrived in Macon county. He came from the east and here he decided to make his home. He has seen no reason to regret his choice, as he became one of the successful men of Macon county and is now living retired in the enjoyment of ease and plenty. He was born at Perth Amboy, Middlesex county, New Jersey, December 22, 1834, and is a son of Jacob and Margaret Ann (Wait) Lewis, also natives of New Jersey. The subject of this review is the only survivor of the family. His sister, Margaret A. Lewis, married Moses Martin and died on Staten Island in 1902. He remembers seeing his father only three times, for the father, who was one of the gold hunters of 1849, died when the son was quite young. He was sixteen years of age when his mother was called from

earthly scenes, so that he was early thrown upon his own resources and learned to depend upon his own judgment.

For two years Mr. Lewis assisted an uncle in a bakery and then became apprenticed to the carpenter's trade, working for three months and three days at ten cents a day and board. On his twenty-first birthday he worked until noon and then notified his employer that he was his own master. However, the latter offered him full journeyman's wages if he would continue and he remained in that employ until he had earned enough money to purchase a good set of tools. Beginning as a contractor, he was proceeding steadily on the road toward financial independence when, in 1858, he came to the conclusion that his fortune lay westward and he left New Jersey, his first stopping place being Springfield, Illinois, where he worked for the socialist colony, and while there enjoyed the pleasure of the acquaintance of Abraham Lincoln. In March, 1858, he came to Decatur and in Macon county established his permanent home. Until forty years of age he engaged in construction work and was the builder of many homes now standing in this county. About 1874 he embarked in the lumber business at Blue Mound and was also largely interested in lands and farming for twenty-five years, becoming one of the extensive landowners of Macon county. During recent years he has disposed of most of his property but retains forty acres in the county and, desiring that his children shall enjoy the advantages of his labors while he is still living, he has given to each of them a liberal allotment of land.

On September 2, 1861, Mr. Lewis was united in marriage to Miss Nancy E. Clemens, who was born in Indiana, November 19, 1841, and came with her parents, Lewis and Sarah J. (Henderson) Clemens, to this state at six years of age. She departed this life January 12, 1905, and was buried in Hall cemetery, two miles north of Blue Mound. To the parents of Mrs. Lewis nine children were born, four of whom are living: Philip, a resident of Stonington, Illinois; Reuben, of Emporia, Kansas; Mary, the wife of Allen White and Tilatha J., the wife of D. A. Hidelbaugh, living in Iowa.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Lewis: Margaret Augusta married William Gray and was called away in 1896, leaving three children, Donald A., Lelah and Margaret Augusta. Sarah E. is now the widow of Elton Nicholls. She lives near Blue Mound and has two children, Luther and Raymond. The third in order of birth died in infancy. Charles M., born December 18, 1873, was educated at the University of Illinois and married a Miss Wright, of Urbana, Illinois, who died in 1898. He now lives in Danville and is one of the prosperous architects of the city.

On January 20, 1909, Mr. Lewis was married a second time, the lady of his choice being Mrs. Matilda (Pope) Clemens, who was born near Blue Mound, December 18, 1861. Her father, Zachariah Pope, was born in Macon county about 1830 and her mother in Virginia. Mr. Pope was a soldier of the Civil war and died soon after its close, but his wife is still living in Decatur and on September 22, 1910, was sixty-nine years of age. Mrs. Lewis has a brother and sister living: Charles, of Decatur, and Zachariah, the wife of J. D. Logan, of Decatur. By her first marriage she became the mother of five children: Ethyl A., born in Macon county, May 13, 1880, is the wife of Edwin Littlefield, of

Edwardsville, Illinois, has two children, Helen and Evelyn; Nettie M., who was born January 18, 1882, died January 8, 1887, and was buried at Blue Mound, Illinois. Raymond B., born June 27, 1884, died July 10, 1905, and was also buried at Blue Mound. Charles L., born October 9, 1886, is living with his mother. Vesta E., born March 27, 1889, is living in Los Angeles, California, and is engaged as clerk in the drug business. Albert Clemens, the first husband of Mrs. Lewis, was born in Indiana, March 12, 1856, and died July 14, 1908. He was the son of Eben T. and Eliza M. (McLain) Clemens, both of whom were born in Indiana, the former in 1831 and the latter in 1835, and they are now living at Blue Mound.

Mrs. Lewis has been for many years an active member of the Methodist church and socially is identified with the Royal Neighbors. Mr. Lewis built the home in which he now lives thirty-three years ago and it is one of the handsome residents of Blue Mound. Although he has passed the Psalmist's allotted age of three score and ten years, he retains his health and has a remarkably clear memory. His reminiscences of earlier years in Illinois are instructive and interesting in a high degree and as a conversationalist he has few superiors. Among the prized mementos which he holds as invaluable is a letter written to him by his mother in 1850. It is beautifully written and expresses in touching language the love of the mother for her son, and this letter will be handed down as a cherished heirloom in the family.

JEFFERSON GOODPASTER WILLARD.

Jefferson Goodpaster Willard, the owner of a valuable farm of seven hundred and twenty acres in Harristown township, was born in Overton county, Tennessee, February 21, 1827, and is now living retired, enjoying in comfort and ease with his wife and son the results of many years of labor. He is the son of William and Martha (Goodpaster) Willard and on the paternal side is of English descent. An early American ancestor, William Willard, was a soldier of the Revolutionary war and afterward received a pension. Going to Adams county, Illinois, he there passed his declining years. He lived to the great age of one hundred and five and preserved his bodily strength to such a remarkable degree that he was able to ride fifty miles on horseback in one day when he was one hundred years old.

William Willard, the father of our subject, is supposed to have been born in Virginia and early in life he removed with his parents to Tennessee. In the year 1829 the family migrated to Morgan county, Illinois, where he took up three hundred and twenty acres of land nine miles west of Jacksonville. The mother was a native of Virginia and accompanied her parents on their removal to Tennessee, when they died, and where she was married. William Willard departed this life at the age of forty-seven years, in 1847, and his wife died in Macon county, November 8, 1861. They were both earnest believers in the Christian religion and actively identified with the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mr. Willard served as an officer for a number of years. He was a

stanch democrat and took an active part in political affairs, becoming county assessor of Morgan county at the time when that official supervised the property assessments of the entire county. In his family were nine children, all of whom grew to maturity, but of this number only two are now living: Jefferson G., the subject of this review; and Jasper, who lives at Mount Zion, this state.

Jefferson G. Willard was reared upon the home farm in Morgan county and began his education in the old log school house which, as he remembers, had the usual slab bench for a seat, the greased paper for windows and the great fireplace which occupied almost the entire end of the building. The schools of those days possessed few of the advantages which are presented so freely at the present time but they have the credit of graduating many of the noblest men and women that America has known. These men and women gained their education in the great school of life, whose teachings are more impressive and more lasting than any ever given at the college or university. At thirteen years of age the farm boy was called on to mourn the loss of his father and it is probable that the responsibility which then devolved upon him has been one of the most important elements in shaping and controlling his character. From the time of his father's death he assisted his mother in providing for the family, continuing until the younger members were able to care for themselves. In 1855 Mr. Willard took up his residence upon a half section of land which he had purchased in this county and which became a portion of the homestead. This land was entirely in its wild state and he has made many improvements, building a house eighteen by thirty feet and one and one-half stories in height, where the family lived until 1864, when the main building was erected to which improvements have been added, making the residence one of the handsomest in that part of the county. In 1864 he built a large barn, one of the most commodious in the township, and soon after arriving on the land, in 1857, he set out a grove of walnut trees planting them from the seed, and today they form a highly pleasing feature in the landscape. The farm, which embraces seven hundred and twenty acres in one body, has been increased in area from time to time, the price paid for the land ranging from twelve to sixty dollars an acre. This land is now worth two hundred and fifty dollars an acre. In addition to carrying on operations extensively as an agriculturalist Mr. Willard has been a noted stock raiser, feeder and shipper and to him belongs the credit of shipping the best one hundred head of cattle ever sent out of Macon county to the present time. These cattle were sold in Chicago, where one carload were placed on exhibition and attracted the attention of many of the greatest cattle men of the country and were afterward all shipped to England.

On March 28, 1849, Mr. Willard was united in marriage to Miss Aliff C. Averitt, who was born in Marshall county, Kentucky, December 25, 1828, a daughter of Nathan G. and Mary (Cooper) Averitt. The parents were both natives of Tennessee and went with their respective families to Kentucky, where they were later married. Mrs. Willard was brought to Morgan county, this state, when she was two years of age, and there she grew up and received a common-school education. Mr. Averitt settled in Macon county in 1850, where he became an extensive landowner, buying a portion of his land at a price as low as seventy cents an acre, by making use of Mexican land war-

rants. He passed away at seventy years of age, his beloved wife having departed many years before. One son, James Monroe, now a resident of Decatur, has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Willard. He was married about 1887 to a Miss Dyke and is the father of three children. His home is at No. 752 West Macon street.

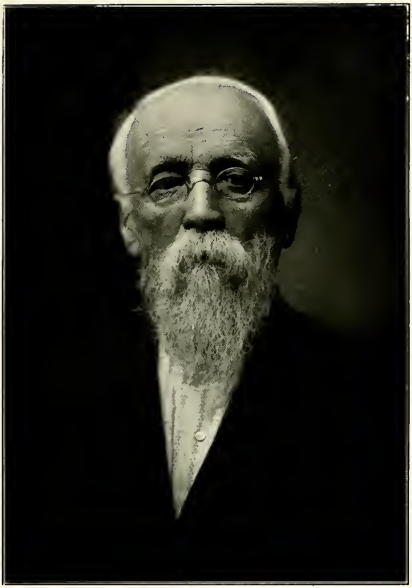
Mr. Willard for many years was allied with the democratic party but later became a prohibitionist and has since adhered to that organization. For nine years he filled the office of road commissioner and although it required three years for him to persuade the other members of the board to endorse his recommendation, he succeeded in securing stone abutments for the bridges built during the remainder of his term of office. He was among the first citizens of the county to advocate a county agricultural association and after it was established he served for three years with marked ability as its president. Reared as a Methodist, he continued in that belief for some years but finally became convinced that the Christian church more closely represented the teachings of the Great Master and he has since that time been one of its members. He has acted as deacon and later as elder, acomplishing a great deal in making the church a power in the neighborhood. While living in Morgan county he became a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows but since taking up his residence in Macon county he has not retained his membership.

In 1909 the sixtieth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Willard was celebrated at the residence of their son in Decatur. Friends gathered from far and wide to extend their greetings and the event will be remembered as one of the most interesting assemblages of the kind known in the community for many years. Mr. Willard owes much of his success to the constant encouragement and support of his wife who has been indeed to him a loving companion and helpmate. Together they have witnessed the great transformation by which the wild land was reduced to the uses of man and today they behold happy homes and thriving communities where in earlier days their eyes rested upon naught but the forest or the naked prairie. Of all this they have been a part and faithfully did they contribute of their strength and resources in accomplishing the marvelous change. It is a pleasure to record in this work the honored names of a family that has contributed so greatly toward the upbuilding of Macon county, erecting a monument vastly more enduring than any built with the hands.

NATHAN L. KRONE.

While Nathan L. Krone has passed the seventy-seventh milestone on life's journey he yet remains an active factor in business circles, continuing in the drug trade in which he has been so long and honorably engaged. No history of Decatur would be complete without his record, for he has lived in the city for sixty-one years, and not to know Mr. Krone here is to argue one's self unknown. His name stands as a synonym for business enterprise and integrity, for public spirit in citizenship and for fidelity in the relations of private life.

Mr. Krone is a representative of one of the oldest families of Pennsylvania. That state was the birthplace of his grandfather, Michael Krone, who after attain-



NATHAN L. KRONE

ing his majority was united in marriage to Miss Franklynberger. Their son David Krone was born in Pennsylvania, acquired his education in the public schools and afterward served an apprenticeship to the carpenter's trade, which he made his life work. He married Miss Ruth Worley, also a native of Pennsylvania and a daughter of Nathan Worley, who was of German lineage, but was born in the Keystone state, where he also met and married Miss Popp, a lady of Welsh descent.

David Krone and bride began their domestic life in New York county, Pennsylvania, where they resided until 1839 and then came to Decatur, where they found a small town containing only a few hundred population in the midst of a prairie that was but sparsely settled. The Black Hawk war had occurred only seven years before, and the settlers of the community told tales of Indian occupancy and of other experiences of pioneer life. Mr. Krone began work at the cabinet-maker's trade and also turned his attention to the hotel business, becoming proprietor of the Macon House. He was connected with cabinet-making until his death in 1867. His wife survived him for about eighteen years, passing away in the spring of 1885. Their children were as follows: Margaret, the wife of George W. Bright, of Decatur; Annie, the wife of David S. Shellebarger, long a prominent business man of this city; Mrs. Sophia McClurg, of St. Joseph, Missouri; and Nathan L.

The last named was born in York county, Pennsylvania, March 14th, 1833, and was therefore but six years of age when he accompanied his parents to Illinois. Here he entered the public schools and gave his attention to the mastery of the branches of learning which constituted the curriculum until he reached the age of sixteen years. He then made his initial step in the business world, securing a clerkship in a dry-goods store, in which he remained for four years. He was afterward with the firm of King & Reed, druggists of Decatur for three years, at the end of which time he became connected with Dr. J. E. Roberts, a druggist with whom he was associated for seventeen years. Mr. Krone then went to Iowa and for a brief period resided in Council Bluffs, but his strong attachment for Decatur caused him to return, and he entered the store with which he had so long been connected, although in the meantime W. C. Armstrong had become the successor of Dr. Roberts as proprietor of that establishment. He was a representative of Mr. Armstrong's interests for sixteen years and then embarked in business on his own acount, opening a store at the corner of Calhoun and Herkimer streets in 1893. He has maintained one of the well equipped drug stores of the city during the past seventeen years, his stock being tastefully arranged, while his honorable business methods and earnest desire to please his patrons have brought to him a gratifying trade.

Mr. Krone has proven his worth as a citizen of Decatur in other ways besides his business connections. For nine years he filled the office of city treasurer and gave most careful and accurate accounting for the public funds. He stands at all times as a loyal advocate of the measures which are deemed essential as factors in the growth and upbuilding of the community.

In 1854 Mr. Krone was married to Miss Jane Frederick, a daughter of Samuel and Rachael (Robinson) Frederick. Mrs. Krone was born in Ohio and by her marriage has become the mother of one son Charles O., who is his father's asso-

ciate in business. He married Mrs. Ella Dew, of Zanesville, Ohio, in October, 1894. Mrs. Krone belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church and has been a faithful and active assistant in its work. Mr. Krone is a prominent Mason, holding membership in Macon Lodge, A. F. & A. M.; Macon Chapter, R. A. M.; and Beaumanoir Commandery, K. T. His political endorsement is given to the republican party and he has never swerved in his allegiance to its principles. A contemporary biographer has written of him: "His manner is genial and entirely free from ostentation, without pretense or display. He commands the respect of his fellowmen and they regard him as a valued friend. He has added much to the brightness of life and has been true and fathful in every relation in which he has been placed. Now at the age of seventy-seven years he commands uniform confidence and is an honored representative of the trade interests of the city, whose development he has witnessed through almost his entire history. His residence in Decatur covers more than the Psalmist's allotted span of life of three score years and ten.

JAMES CONNAGHAN.

James Connaghan, a prosperous farmer whose home is on section 12, Niantic township, the family residence being just inside the corporate limits of the village of Niantic, is a native of the Emerald isle. He was born on a farm in the town of Ballinamore, County Donegal, August 8, 1848, and is a son of Charles and Sarah (Gatens) Connaghan. When he was about five years of age his parents removed to the village of Maryhill, about three miles from Glasgow, Scotland, where the son grew up, receiving only a limited education, as he was early put to work in order to assist in the support of the family. There were eleven children, of whom he was seventh in order of birth. At sixteen he began to learn the molder's trade and about a year later the father died. Charles Connaghan had been twice married and by his first union there were three children, the oldest of whom came to America and served in the Civil war. The family never heard of him again nor has any trace been found of the other two children. Of the eleven children by the second marriage seven grew to maturity and it is believed that six are now living.

In the spring of 1867 James Connaghan bade farewell to boyhood scenes and went aboard a vessel which was bound for America. After a voyage of twenty-one days he arrived in New York and soon joined his brother Charles, who was living at Kortright, New York. After a few months the brothers came to Macon county, Illinois, where they began work by the month. However, on account of the failing health of his brother and upon the advice of a physician they returned to Scotland, leaving the port of New York on the day of the national election in November, 1868, when General Grant was elected president of the United States. The voyage was made in the steamer City of Cork, which was a sister ship to the noted Confederate cruiser Alabama, which created such havoc at the time of the Civil war. The brothers spent six months in the old country, at the end of which time they again came to the new world,

landing at Quebec, and after a few weeks were once more in Macon county, where they had decided to make their permanent home. James Connaghan worked for some time for J. J. Batchelder, and later the two brothers rented land of him for about three years, when they sold their lease and removed to Piatt county, Illinois. After an experience of a year there they went to Moultrie county, where our subject purchased ninety-six acres of land at thirty dollars an acre, upon which there was a small house and barn. This property he sold a short time afterward and then rented one hundred and seventy-six acres of land in Moultrie county, where he continued for twenty-one years and became quite successful as an agriculturist and stock-raiser. A turning point in his career was reached when he secured a lease on three hundred and twenty acres of prairie land in Moultrie county. Upon this there was a lake, which he agreed to tile at ten cents a rod for laying the tile and five cents a rod for filling, the expense incurred by the purchase of the tile to be taken out of the rent. The lease he held for about five years, but in the meantime he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land where he now lives at sixty-five dollars per acre and later added forty acres more at one hundred dollars per acre, locating thereon about 1900. He also owns one hundred and sixty acres of land near Bement. He and his brother were for some time the owners of a corn sheller and also became owners of a horse power thresher, which he operated for a number of years. On the organization of the Niantic Farmers Elevator Company Mr. Connaghan became a stockholder and was elected president of the company, in which position he still continues. He was also an organizer of the Niantic & Harristown Telephone Company and was its second president. He resides in a beautiful and commodious home, heated and lighted according to the most improved modern methods, and has equipped his farm with every desirable convenience, making it one of the most complete establishments of the kind in this part of the county.

At Decatur, November 24, 1880, Mr. Connaghan was united in marriage to Miss Mary Ann Ryan, with whom he had become acquainted in Niantic. She is a native of New York state and is a daughter of Patrick and Mary (Cotter) Ryan. Seven children have blessed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Connaghan: Margaret Edith, at home; Sadie May, the wife of Samuel Gordon, of Macon county, and the mother of one child, Alice Louise; Charles Richard, who is a graduate of Brown's Business College of Decatur and is living at home; Mary Irene, at home; Blanche; Leo C.; and Bernard.

Mr. Connaghan is not closely affiliated with any political party but usually votes the democratic ticket and has held several official positions, discharging his duties with the same interest and ability that he exercises in his private affairs. He is an uncompromising champion of good roads and as road commissioner in Moultrie county for nine years he succeeded in making some of the best highways in the county. He has served for a number of years upon school boards and, being a strong advocate of education, he has always insisted on hiring the best teachers available. He was reared a Catholic and his name is found on the membership rolls of St. Ann's church at Niantic, of which beneficent organization he is a trustee. Mr. Connaghan has found in his estimable

wife a loving and faithful companion during all the years of their association and in their comfortable home, supplied with every convenience, they now enjoy the blessings which are the results of their own prudence and good management. They also enjoy the friendship and confidence of the entire community.

HON. ROBERT A. GRAY.

The Scotch-Irish in America have gained an enviable reputation on account of stanch characteristics which have made them leading members in many communities. Of this nationality is Hon. Robert A. Gray, now living retired at Blue Mound, in the enjoyment of comfort and ease after many years of wisely directed effort. He was born in County Donegal in the north of Ireland, October 16, 1835, and is a son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Patten) Gray. The ancestors on the paternal side settled in Ireland perhaps as early as 1542 and the Grays of Castle Torras, though Protestants, were always celebrated for their independence and liberal political views and were held in high esteem by their Catholic fellow countrymen. The father of our subject came to the United States to visit friends in Maryland in 1836 and died very suddenly in Philadelphia. The mother departed this life in Ireland in 1845. There were four children in the family, three of whom are now living: Sarah J., the widow of James J. Martin, of St. Louis; Robert A.; and William A., now of Blue Mound, who was a member of the first company of cavalry that was recruited in New York at the time of the Civil war.

After the death of the father a guardian was appointed to take charge of the family estate in behalf of the children. He proved unfaithful to his trust and the entire property was dissipated so that the subject of this review was thrown early in life very largely upon his own resources. He attended school in Ireland and continued his education in St. Louis after coming to America in 1851. For a time he taught school and also served as clerk on the steamboats plying the Mississippi and Cumberland rivers. This was early in the '50s when Mark Twain was gaining his first experience as pilot on the Father of Waters. Mr. Gray, however, was attracted to agricultural pursuits and for twenty-five years he was actively connected with the farming interests of Madison and Christian counties, Illinois. That he was successful is shown by the fact that he now owns two hundred acres of good Christian county land and other properties which make him financially independent. In 1908 he retired and removed to Blue Mound, where he enjoys the association of old friends and the leisure which is so essential in making complete the declining years of a busy life.

Mr. Gray has always taken an active interest in public affairs and for two years served as deputy assessor of Madison county during his residence there. Later while residing upon his farm in Mosquito township, Christian county, he became a recognized political leader in his county. In 1874 he was elected supervisor of his township, receiving all the votes that were cast except three, and was reelected continuously until he became a member of the state legisla-

ture in 1885. At that time he was a candidate against Job B. Ricks, who had previously been an invincible candidate. Mr. Gray carried eleven out of seventeen townships and after the close of his first term in the legislature was again elected, serving in the thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth general assemblies. He was a member of the committees on claims, education and elections. He made a record for efficient service which probably has never been surpassed in that body. He refused to be a candidate for state senator on account of ill health but was again elected to the board of supervisors and served as chairman of the building committee which erected the new county courthouse of Christian county. He acquitted himself with such high credit in that responsible position that the building has often been pointed out as a monument to the honesty and fidelity of Robert A. Gray and his associates on the building committee.

Mr. Gray has been a lifelong observer and student and from his boyhood has been a writer of prose and verse. Many years ago he was a contributor to the St. Louis Post and the Evening News and also the old Knickerbocker magazine and other publications. He wrote "Lines on the death of General Logan," which were spoken of by Mrs. Logan in most complimentary terms. He also wrote "There's but three pairs of stocking to darn tonight," "Lines on the anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns," and many other poems which he can now readily repeat from memory and which have been copied quite extensively by the press. He is greatly interested in the history of his adopted state and for many years has served as a member of the board of trustees of the Illinois State Historical Library Association, with such men as Judge Lambert Tree and the Hon. J. N. Perrin. For this library he wrote a history of the Scotch-Irish in America, which was published in a volume issued by the organization in 1904 and shows a great deal of research.

On January 24, 1861, Mr. Gray was united in marriage to Miss Martha Blackburn, who was born in Ireland, October 21, 1840. She is a daughter of Samuel and Martha (Knox) Blackburn, both of whom were of Scotch-Irish descent. The father was born in October, 1810, and the mother in April, 1815, They were married in Ireland and came to America in 1851, settling in Madison county, Illinois, where Mr. Blackburn departed this life in 1869 and the mother in 1900. They were the parents of nine children, six of whom are living. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Gray: Hyde, deceased; William A., of Knox county, Missouri; Anna B., now Mrs. Walley, of Decatur; John K., of Blue Mound; Joseph, deceased; Mary, also deceased; Margaret, now Mrs. C. S. Burdick, of Christian county; Elizabeth, now Mrs. Frank Long, of Mount Auburn, Christian county; Robert H., also of Christian county; Sarah, at home; and James, Frank, Francis S. and Edna B., all of Blue Mound.

Until the Civil war Mr. Gray voted the republican ticket, voting first for John C. Fremont, but at the time of the reconstruction in the south he turned to the democratic party, to which he now gives his adherence. Fraternally he is identified with the Masonic order. He has traveled extensively in the United States and few men are better acquainted with the resources and possibilities of this wonderful country. He is a gentleman of fine social characteristics,

generous, frank, straightforward and modest, and in public and private life has always won the respect of all with whom he associated. Starting as a boy upon his own resources, he attained deserved success, and now he enjoys the result of many years of application. At the same time he is accorded the honor which belongs to a man who has sincerely attempted to perform his duty.

ELIJAH A. MORGAN, M. D.

While Dr. Elijah A. Morgan is now living retired, he was for many years a distinguished member of the medical profession of Macon county, his marked ability gaining for him a liberal practice that causes the memory of his professional service to be cherished, while to him is extended the warm friendship and kindly regard of many who have been his patients. He was born in Niantic township, Macon county, October 10, 1854. His parents were C. W., and Elizabeth E. Morgan, who were among the first settlers of Macon county, settling on a farm in Niantic township ere the work of progress and development had been carried forward in the county to any great extent. The father was a descendant of a Scotch family, representatives of which came from Kentucky at an early day, and purchased a large tract of land in Sangamon county, including the present site of the state capitol. The mother was of German lineage. On moving to Macon county C. W. Morgan could have purchased land which is today worth two hundred and fifty dollars per acre for the nominal government price of one dollar and a quarter per acre. At that time Decatur was simply a trading post and there were no industrial or manufacturing enterprises, and little evidence of future development and growth were to be seen.

Dr. Morgan acquired his literary education in the Illinois Wesleyan university at Bloomington. From early boyhood he had a desire to take up the study of medicine, and his literary work was directed with that end in view. After leaving school he became a teacher in the public schools, regarding this however as an initial step to other professional labor. He never abandoned his idea of one day becoming a physician, and, after his school teaching had provided a sufficient capital to tide him over a study period in preparation for the medical profession, he became a student in the office and under the direction of Drs. Moore and Barnes of Decatur. He supplemented his preliminary reading by a course in the Bellevue Hospital Medical College of New York city, which he entered in 1880, and from which he was graduated in 1883, with the valedictorian honors of his class. In his college days, as in his later professional career, he was actuated by a desire to attain the highest possible efficiency and skill and until the time of his retirement he remained a close and earnest student of his profession, constantly broadening his knowledge by wide reading and research. From the time of his graduation he gave almost his undivided attention to his practice, taking little part in other business pursuits and giving comparatively few hours to recreation. Immediately after his graduation Dr. Morgan located in Maroa, where for fourteen years he enjoyed the largest country practice of any physician in the county. In 1897, in order to secure the

benefit of better schools for his children, he removed to Decatur, and soon built up a large practice in this city, his previous broad experience and comprehensive knowledge being manifest in the ability with which he handled major as well as minor cases. He never sought or desired public office, and the only municipal position that he ever filled was that of a member of the board of education in Maroa for a number of years. Politically he is now and always has been a stalwart republican.

On the 11th of August, 1885, Dr. Morgan was married to Miss Margaret Happer of Springfield, and unto them have been born two daughters: Marie H., and Helen G., twenty-two and twenty years of age respectively. The family home is a hospitable one and the members of the household have many warm friends in Decatur and elsewhere in the county. After practicing medicine for more than a quarter of a century, Dr. Morgan's health began to fail, and three years ago or more he was compelled to retire from active practice on account of total deafness and a complication of diseases. He had, however, accumulated a sufficient amount of this world's goods to enable him to live retired and yet enjoy many of the comforts of life. He still retains his membership in the American Medical Association, the Illinois State Medical Society, the District Medical Society of Illinois, and the Decatur Medical Society. He has attained high rank in Masonry, belonging to Ionic Lodge, No. 312, A. F. & A. M.; Macon Chapter, No. 21, R. A. M.; Beaumonoir Commandery, No. 9, K. T.; and Medinah Temple of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine of Chicago. He also holds membership with Coeur de Leon Lodge, No. 17, K. P., of Decatur, and has twice represented the subordinate lodge and the Knights of Pythias grand lodge of Illinois. He holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, and for more than twenty consecutive years was an official member of the board. His life has at all times been honorable and upright, actuated by noble principles, and throughout his professional career he had many opportunities, which he improved, for exemplifying the beneficent spirit of Masonry and the teachings of his church concerning the brotherhood of mankind.

FREDERICK B. TROUTMAN.

Frederick B. Troutman is an energetic and prosperous farmer of Harristown township, cultivating one hundred and sixty acres on section 4. He is also a stock-raiser and a breeder of Duroc Jersey red hogs, in which business he has attained an enviable reputation. He was born on a farm near Wyckles, Illinois, June 18, 1877, and is a son of Jacob and Sarah (Morrison) Troutman. The father was engaged in agricultural pursuits and the subject of this review grew up as a farmer boy and was educated in the district schools. However, he was not entirely satisfied with his common-school course and pursued his investigations further, becoming a student at the Decatur high school, where he continued for two years. His success in his chosen calling is a new evidence that a school education rightly used is an important assistant in any business with which one may become identified in after years.

After laying his school books aside Mr. Troutman returned to the farm and continued with his father for several years. Upon arriving at the age of twenty-three he was married and for a year was connected with the Mueller Manufacturing Company at Decatur. Finding the farm more to his taste, he went to Christian county, where he continued for two years, and then came to Decatur township, Macon county, but at the end of three years located in Harristown township, where he has since continued. Here he farms one hundred and sixty acres and has made a gratifying success not only in agricultural lines but as a breeder of hogs. His herd of Duroc Jerseys attracts many buyers and has gained reputation which extends beyond the limits of the county. Mr. Troutman has brought to his work a sound judgment so important in the attainment of success and has an enthusiasm which has carried him over many difficulties that might have defeated a less resolute man.

On March 15, 1900, Mr. Troutman was married to Miss Rosa D. Musser, of Decatur, who was born and reared in Harristown township and is a daughter of Adam B. and Mary A. (Cormany) Musser. She is blessed with fine mental endowments and a good education and has proven a true assistant to her husband, always exerting an influence for further advancement and by her example inspiring others to lives of usefulness. Two children have been born to them: E. Lucille, born June 17, 1903; and Alice A., October 23, 1909.

Mr. and Mrs. Troutman are both members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Harristown and active workers in its interest. He has been a lifelong republican and cast his first presidential ballot for William McKinley in 1900. He is an avowed champion of the principles of his party. Although a young man he has made a start which gives great promise of a constantly increasing sphere of usefulness.

SAMUEL C. McCONNELL.

Samuel C. McConnell is one of the well known farmers of Whitmore township, whose worth in the community is widely acknowledged. He owned two neat and well improved farms and his energy and well directed activity are manifest in the excellent appearance of these places. His life work has ever been in harmony with high and honorable principles, and his record proves what may be accomplished by determined purpose intelligently directed.

A native son of Illinois, he was born in Scott county on the 15th of November, 1850. His father, Thomas McConnell, was born in Virginia on the 17th of April, 1826, and was reared in the Old Dominion upon a farm. When a young man, he removed westward to Illinois, settling in Scott county among its early residents. The conditions and hardships of pioneer life were there to be seen, and Mr. McConnell bore his part in the work and progress of development as the years passed on. He was married in Scott county to Miss Sarah Truesdall, who was born in Virginia, where she was reared to the age of fourteen years, and then came to Illinois with her father, who was another of the worthy pioneers that Virginia furnished to Illinois. Following his mar-

MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL C. McCONNELL

riage, Thomas McConnell carried on farming in Scott county for a number of years but in 1861 removed to Macon county, settling in Whitmore township, where he cultivated a rented farm for a few years. He reared his family and spent his last days in this county, passing away January 22, 1872, when but forty-five years of age. His wife long survived him, her death occurring in 1891. Their family numbered three sons and three daughters, all of whom reached years of maturity, those still living being: Charles, who is a business man of Wichita, Kansas; Jennie, the wife of John Prey, of Sedgwick county, Kansas; Laura, the wife of Reason Reed, of Wichita, Kansas; and Samuel C., of this review; William, born in 1854, died October 12, 1886; and Mary, the wife of C. D. Sterns, was born August 28, 1852, and died August 14, 1877.

Samuel McConnell came to Macon county with his parents when a lad of nine years, and was reared in Whitmore township, the common schools of that locality affording him his educational privileges. He remained with his father until the latter's death and afterward lived with his mother until twenty-four years of age. He was married in Whitmore township on the 18th of February, 1875, to Miss Elizabeth Jane Good, who was born and reared in Macon county, a daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Barnett) Good. Her father was a native of York county, Pennsylvania, and came to Illinois about 1847. Here he was reared and married, the wedding being celebrated in the house in which Mrs. McConnell new resides. The wedding day was June 29, 1852, and Miss Elizabeth Barnett became his wife. She was a native of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and in her girlhood days came west with her parents to Macon county, Illinois. Her father, George P. Barnett, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, spent the days of his minority there, and in 1849 came with his family to Macon county, settling in Whitmore township. He entered one hundred and sixty acres of land, which is the farm now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. McConnell. Not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made when this property came into his possession, and with determined purpose and unfaltering energy he began the development of the farm. In 1851 he erected the residence that is now standing upon the place, hauling the pine lumber and shingles in a wagon from Chicago. He continued a valued representative of the pioneer life of this county until his death, which occurred January 23, 1866. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Barbara Mussleman, was also a native of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where she resided to the time of her marriage. She died in Macon county, July 24, 1893, at the advanced age of eighty-six years.

Mrs. McConnell has four sisters, namely: Barbara Ann, who is now the wife of B. J. McAllister and has two children, Nevin and Grace; Linda, who is the wife of Theodore Colman and has three children, Lloyd, Mae and Fannie; Mary, who is the wife of Theodore Funk and has two children, Mae and Carrol; and Emma Mae, who is the wife of W. R. Adams and has five children, Laura, Doris, Roy, Ethel and Florence.

Following their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. McConnell located on a farm in Whitmore township, which he rented and cultivated for several years. In the meantime he carefully saved his earnings and at length invested in a farm near Argenta in Friends Creek township, becoming owner of one hundred and sixty

acres. This was already an improved property, to which he further added modern equipments and accessories. He erected a good house, also built a substantial barn, a double corn crib and a granary. He fenced and tiled the fields and carried on the farm work along most practical and progressive lines. Later he and his three brothers bought the place which he now occupies—a tract of sixty acres—for their mother, who spent her last days here. Following her demise, Samuel McConnell purchased the interest of his brothers in the property, and in 1896 took up his abode upon the farm, which is one of the old developed properties of the county. Later, however, he rented the place to his son and removed to his present farm, which is situated on section 32, Whitmore township, and was the home of Mrs. McConnell's grandfather. He has devoted his life to the raising of grain and stock and has been quite successful in raising and feeding stock for the market, this constituting an important branch of his business.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. McConnell have been born two children: Lewis Irwin, who is married and for ten years has resided upon the farm formerly occupied by his parents; and Valerie Pearl, the wife of Thomas H. Acorn, a farmer of Whitmore township. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis McConnell have three children, Ethel May, Hazel Lucille and Velma Edith.

In his political views Mr. McConnell is a democrat, earnest in his support of the party principles, but at local elections where no issues are involved he votes independently. He has served as township school trustee for a number of years, and has also done good and effective work in the interest of education as a member of the school board. He was also pathmaster for several years and has served on the petit jury but has never desired or sought public office, preferring to devote his time and attention to business affairs, in which his well directed labors have brought to him substantial success. He has served as administrator for and has settled four or five estates. His labors have been an element in the growth and progress of his community, for his cooperation can always be counted upon to further any movement for the general good. He is a careful conservative business man who has the confidence and esteem of the entire community, and his business integrity stands as an unquestioned fact in his life work.

THOMAS BLACKBURN.

Ireland has contributed to America many of her most active and useful young men, who under the republic have accomplished a noble work in assisting in the onward march of civilization. Every department of American life has felt their presence but nowhere has it been more clearly manifest than in the agricultural and stock-raising communities. Macon county, Illinois, as a great agricultural center has attracted many of the stalwart sons of Erin and among them was Thomas Blackburn, now deceased, the subject of this review. He was born in County Limerick, Ireland, in 1816. He was educated in his native land and there grew to manhood, after which he came to America and for a number of years was a contractor in the construction of the Wabash Railway.

However, he was attracted to agricultural pursuits and, selecting central Illinois as his choice of location, he began farming in Logan county and later purchased eighty acres of land in section 22, Niantic township, Macon county, and there established his home. He made all the improvements, building a comfortable dwelling and constructing outbuildings and fences, gradually extending his possessions until he owned two hundred and forty acres in Macon county and and became known as one of the most flourishing farmers of the region.

At St. Louis, Mr. Blackburn was united in marriage, about fifty years ago to Miss Mary Clary, who was also born in County Limerick, Ireland, where she grew to womanhood, and came to America with her brother. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Blackburn: Matthew J., a policeman in Chicago; Margaret, who married John Day and lives at Lanesville, Illinois; Fannie, the wife of Patrick Blair, of Springfield, Illinois; Richard, who was born in Logan county; Ellen, living at home; Mary, who married Joseph Witt and lives at Mount Pulaski, Illinois; Catharine, at home; and William J., also at home.

Mr. Blackburn was called from earthly scenes in April, 1893, at the age of seventy-seven years. His wife departed fourteen years later, in 1907. They were both buried in the cemetery at Illiopolis and were consistent members of the Catholic church. Mr. Blackburn gave his adherence to the democratic party but never sought public office, as his interest was devoted principally to his family and his farm. He was a man of high character and, starting in life with a worthy ambition, he lived to witness its realization. In his estimable wife he found a true helpmeet, who proved to him a safe adviser and to her children a loving mother. The names of this worthy couple will long be cherished for they had many friends in the county of their adoption.

CHARLES A. MILLER, M. D.

Dr. Charles A. Miller, for the last six years in active practice at Macon, where he has gained an enviable reputation in his profession, is a native son of Illinois, born in Jackson county, November 5, 1875. His parents were Robert H. and Elizabeth (Oakes) Miller, the former of whom was born in Cambridge, Ohio, in 1837, and came to Jackson county, this state, about 1860. He was married shortly after the close of the Civil war and for fifty years has been identified with the farming interests of his county. The Doctor is one of a family of three children, the others being: Hattie, now living at home; and Ernest, who married Venita Hall, of McLeansboro, Illinois, and is now engaged in banking at Makanda, Jackson county, this state.

Dr. Miller received his preliminary education in the public schools of Jackson county and, feeling a strong inclination for a professional career, began his higher studies in 1896 at Ewing College, Franklin county, this state. He continued for two years when, in order to replenish his finances, he engaged in teaching school. After two years as a teacher he attended the Southern Illinois

Normal School of Carbondale, where he continued for one year. He was next a student in the Barnes Medical College of St. Louis for two years and then he entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Chicago—the medical department of the University of Illinois—graduating from that great institution in 1902 with the degree of M. D. He began practice at Boody, Macon county, but after two years in that community came to Macon county, where he has since continued. Dr. Miller has won merited distinction in his profession by conscientious application and has availed himself of every opportunity for information concerning the various departments of the healing art. He is a constant student, his library containing many of the leading works on medicine and surgery, while he is also a close reader of the best medical magazines and reviews. He is blessed with a cool judgment and having been thoroughly trained early in his career under some of the most able teachers in America, he is well equipped for the responsible work in which he is engaged.

In 1902 Dr. Miller was united in marriage to Miss Kate McMurphy, a daughter of A. C. and J. A. McMurphy, of Carbondale, this state. She is second in order of birth in a family of three daughters. The oldest, Miss Daisy, is a trained nurse in Chicago, and the youngest, Carrie, is now Mrs. B. F. Norfleet living in Lexington, Kentucky. Mrs. Miller was born in 1877 and is a woman of unusual intelligence and a devoted wife and mother. Two children, twins, Berna and Cecil, born November 18, 1903, have come to brighten the home of Dr. and Mrs. Miller.

The Doctor holds membership in South Macon Lodge, No. 467, A. F. & A. M., and also in Beacon Lodge, No. 434, Knights of Pythias, and Camp No. 362, Modern Woodmen of America. He and his wife are both identified with the Order of the Eastern Star, which is one of the auxiliary organizations of Masonry. Dr. Miller has from the time of arriving at man's estate been an earnest supporter of the republican party. He is not affiliated with any religious denomination but attends the Methodist church, of which his wife is a member and to whose beneficences they are liberal contributors.

JOHN EMMETT HENEBRY.

John Emmett Henebry, a practical and progressive farmer living on section 26, Niantic township, not far from the town of Illiopolis, was born in Dewitt county, Illinois, November 29, 1869. In his life work he has given proof that industry and energy are substantial elements in the attainment of success. His parents were Phillip and Bridget (Thorp) Henebry, now residents of Bement, Illinois. They were farming people and lived in various places until at length they purchased land in Long Creek township, removing to that farm when their son John was but a mere child. They there resided until he was about twelve or thirteen years of age, when they became residents of Piatt county, Illinois, but afterward again settled in Dewitt county. Subsequently, however, they went once more to Piatt county.

John E. Henebry aided his father in the farm work until twenty-one years of age, at which time he went to St. Louis, where he was employed in connection with the operation of the street car system of that city for about two months. He then returned home and the following spring hired out by the month as a farm hand. Subsequently he worked in the railway shops in Clinton, Illinois, for a few months but believing that he would find farming a more congenial and profitable occupation, he rented land in Piatt county and began farming on his own acount. Two years later he went to assist his father on a place which the latter had purchase in Champaign county and after a year there spent John E. Henebry began farming near Dalton, Illinois.

On the 6th of February, 1895, in Decatur, he was united in marriage to Miss Julia Ann Van Dongen, who was born in the village of Macon in Macon county, Illinois, September 26, 1867, and is a daughter of Joseph and Bridget (Kane) Van Dongen. Her father was born in a village near Antwerp, February 27, 1829, and was twenty-one years of age when he came to America. He represented an old Belgium family and in his native country he acquired a good education. After crossing the Atlantic to the new world he remained in the east for a few years and was employed as coachman and as clerk in a hotel in Jersey City, New Jersey. Subsequently he came west and for a brief period was in Chicago, where he was married. The mother of Mrs. Henebry was born in County Armagh, Ireland, and came to the United States with a cousin when thirteen years of age. She was living in Jersey City at the time she became acquainted with Mr. Van Dongen. Following their marriage they removed to Morris, Illinois, where they conducted a hotel for a few years and thence came to Decatur, where they also managed a hotel for several years. Afterward they removed to other towns and later came to Macon, where Mrs. Henebry was born. For about a year they were residents of Tolono, where Mr. Van Dongen was employed as a watchman. He lived in Decatur for a time and afterward spent twenty-one years upon a farm which he rented, there passing away on the 11th of January, 1902.

Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Henebry resided on different farms for about four years and then removed to Macon county. Here he has engaged in general agricultural pursuits and is now occupying the Knap farm on section 26, Niantic township. In addition to cultivating the fields he is engaged in breeding pure bred Percheron horses, high grade shorthorn cattle, Poland China hogs and Shropshire sheep. His live stock interests are a very important branch of his business and are bringing to him substantial return.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Henebry has been blessed with five children: Phillip Felix, who was born on a farm near Penfield, Champaign county, Illinois, January 20, 1896; Anna, who was born September 17, 1898, in Piatt county; Joseph F., who died in infancy; Josephine, born in Macon county, May 6, 1903; and Bernard who was born on the Knap farm in Niantic township on the 15th of May, 1906.

Mr. Henebry is a democrat but not an office seeker. He was reared in the Catholic faith and with his wife attends the church at Niantic. The limited financial resources of his father made it necessary that he early depend upon

his own labors for support and his life has been a busy, active and useful one, in which there have been but few idle moments. His diligence and industry constitute the basis of his advancement and have brought him substantial return and as the years have gone by he has made for himself a place mong the enterprising agriculturists of Niantic township.

DELANEY & DELANEY.

One of the leading business firms of Niantic is Delaney & Delaney, dealers in grain, buggies, farm implements and live stock. The firm is composed of John S. and Lawrence Delaney, natives of Illinois, and sons of James and Mary (Doyle) Delaney. Both of the parents were natives of Ireland. James Delaney came to America when he was about twenty years of age and in Sangamon county, this state, he met Mary Doyle, who afterwards became his wife. For a time he rented land in Sangamon county, but in 1860 bought a small tract near Oreana. Prospering in his undertakings, in 1865 he came to Niantic township, Macon county, and purchased one hundred and seventy-five acres of land, establishing a home where he spent the remainder of his life. By industry and good management he increased his holdings until he became the owner of a fine farm of five hundred and twenty acres and was known as one of the extensive live-stock dealers of the county. He departed this life in 1894 but is survived by his widow who is living in Niantic and has arrived at the venerable age of eighty-two years. They were the parents of nine children, all of whom grew to maturity, and eight of whom are now living: Anna, who married John Hogan and lives at Illiopolis; Patrick W., who lives in Decatur; Thomas, a policeman, also of Decatur; John S., born February 3, 1859, and living in Niantic; Maggie, the wife of James Muldoon, and living on the old home place; Michael L., who married Maggie Doran, and is the owner of an elevator at Chatsworth, Illinois; Lawrence, who married Rosa Graham, deceased in 1904, and is the father of seven children; James, who married Alice Burns and died October 18, 1909; and Jerry C., of Bellefourche, South Dakota, who married Ella Stableton and has one child.

James Delaney was identified with the democratic party and a stanch believer in its principles, rearing all of his sons to vote the democratic ticket. Although the father never aspired to public office himself, John S. Delaney served as road commissioner of Niantic township for sixteen sucessive years and succeeded in opening up several roads in the township. The father was a lifelong member of the Catholic church, retaining his membership with the church at Decatur until a building was erected at Niantic, when he transferred his membership and from that time forward was a liberal contributor to the Niantic branch. Mr. Delaney was a man of great industry, upright and honorable in every act, and one of the most public-spirited citizens of his township. He taught his children to respect labor and they grew up as independent and useful members of the community. He was generous and kind-hearted and made friends wherever he was known and no one had anything ill to say of James Delaney.

Referring in detail to the firm of Delaney & Delaney, it is proper to say that the business was established in 1900 by N. A. Mansfield and John S. and James Delaney. They built their elevator the same year and continued together until January, 1904, when Mr. Mansfield disposed of his interest and the firm was reorganized under the title of Delaney Brothers, consisting of John S., James and Lawrence Delaney. On October 15, 1908, the elevator caught fire from a passing train and a loss of twenty thousand dollars was inflicted which was partially covered by insurance. The elevator was promptly rebuilt, the capacity being about forty thousand bushels, and several improvements were made in the new building which have assisted materially in the operation of the plant. The firm is now prospering as never before and its members are justly regarded as substantial and progressive citizens who have the public welfare at heart and while they advance their own interests also assist in no small degree in promoting the permanent good of the entire region.

JOHN CLARK.

John Clark, who since 1908 has enjoyed a gratifying patronage as a grocery merchant of Decatur, owns a well appointed store at No. 1549 E. Marietta street and resides at No. 650 E. Conduit street. His birth occurred in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, on the 10th of December, 1876, his parents being Thomas and Helen (Henley) Clark, who are natives of Ireland and Pennsylvania respectively. The father was the first in order of birth in a family of six children, while the mother was the eldest child of her father's second marriage. They were joined in wedlock on the 31st of December, 1875. Thomas Clark was brought to the United States by his parents when but two years of age, the family home being established in the Keystone state. He came to Illinois in February, 1882, and is now a substantial and respected resident of Decatur. He has been engaged in coal mining throughout his entire business career and during the past twenty-three years has been pit boss for the Decatur Coal Company here. Unto him and his wife were born fourteen children, seven of whom passed away in early life. The others are as follows: John, of this review; Mary, now living in Springfield, who is the wife of Edward J. Morrow and the mother of one child; and Joseph Edward, Helen, Richard, Margaret and Charles, all at home.

John Clark obtained his preliminary education in a convent school of Decatur and afterward pursued a course in the Scranton (Pa.) Correspondence School, receiving his diploma in mining in 1893. The following year he passed the examination in mining for the state of Illinois, following that profession until 1902, when he entered the coal office as city scale clerk. In 1908 he embarked in the grocery business and has since conducted a successful establishment of that character in Decatur, having built up a large and profitable trade.

In 1898 Mr. Clark was united in marriage to Miss Annie McGonnigle, of Decatur, who was the second in order of birth in a family of six children, her natal day being March 25, 1882. They are now the parents of six children,

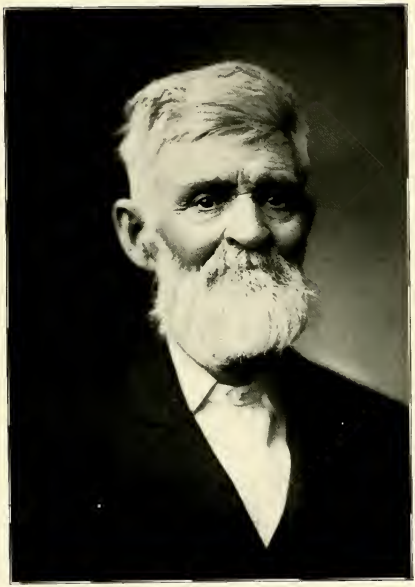
namely: Louis Raymond, Helen Josephine, Mary T., Margaret, John and Catherine, all at home.

In politics Mr. Clark is an inflexible republican and for four terms he capably served as assessor of Decatur township. Fraternally he is identified with the Knights of Columbus, the Independent Order of Foresters and the Order of Eagles. Both Mr. and Mrs. Clark are faithful communicants of St, Patrick's church at Decatur. They enjoy an extensive acquaintance throughout the community and well merit the regard and esteem which are uniformly accorded them.

FRANCIS M. HOSTETLER.

Francis M. Hostetler, a retired farmer and merchant of Harristown, who owns about four hundred and twenty acres of valuable farming land in this county and an orange grove in Florida, was born in Clark county, Indiana, February 3, 1835. His parents, Jacob and Tabitha (Crum) Hostetler, were both natives of Kentucky and after their marriage lived in Indiana. In 1835, the same year in which our subject was born, the parents came to Macon county and located on section 14, Harristown township, where the father entered government land at one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre and in the course of years became a large landowner and one of the leading men in his community. He was an ardent supported of the democratic party and held several public positions of responsibility, serving as assessor for one year, as associate county judge, and for many years as justice of the peace. He departed this life at the age of sixty-three. There were three children in the family: Francis M., the subject of this review; Mary Jane, now Mrs. J. C. Campbell, of Decatur; and Malinda E., the wife of C. E. Hunsley, of North Dakota.

Francis M. Hostetler grew up on what was then the Illinois frontier and early became familiar with many of the hardships of pioneer life. He was educated in a log schoolhouse with split logs for seats and greased paper for windows, and he remembers that the first stove that was introduced into the region was placed in this little log schoolhouse and was regarded as a great curiosity and attracted many visitors. He assisted in the work of the farm and at eighteen or nineteen years of age hauled timbers to make culverts and bridges for the Wabash Railroad, which was then in the course of construction through Macon county. From his earliest recollection Mr. Hostetler has been identified with farming operations and also at various times with the mercantile business and he attained high success both as a merchant and as a farmer, possessing unusual foresight and sagacity, and being endowed with those habits of industry and perseverance which are so necessary in the management of all business affairs. While a young man he received as a gift from a member of the family one hundred and sixty acres of land in this county, which he still retains, and to which he added from time to time until he became the owner of his present large and well equipped farm, paying from twenty to seventy dollars an acre for most of the land. At the close of the Civil war he engaged in the mercantile business at Tuscola, this state, for



F. M. HOSTETLER

three years, and in 1876 he removed to Latham and was there actively connected with mercantile affairs for six or seven years, but he finally located at Harristown in 1884, where he has since made his home.

In 1857, in Decatur township, Mr. Hostetler was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Wykle a native of Greene county, Tennessee, who passed away in 1907, and Mr. Hostetler was again married, April 21, 1910, the lady of his choice being Mrs. Bertie (Coleman) McAnderson, who was born in North Carolina, March 2, 1886, a daughter of William and Ann Eliza (Simmons) Coleman. Her first husband was John McAnderson, of Newbern, North Carolina, by whom she had one child, Lizzie, born in North Carolina, July 19, 1902. In March, 1903, she removed to Point Washington, Florida, and at Bartow, that state she met Mr. Hostetler, in December, 1909, the meeting resulting in marriage the following April. Mr. Hostetler has recently been in the habit of spending his winters in Florida.

He has been a lifelong democrat but has never been drawn into the whirlpool of politics, as his attention has been devoted to his various business interests. He is a member of the Christian church and gives liberally towards its support. He is also identified with Tuscola Lodge, I. O. O. F., and has made many friends in Macon county who admire him on account of his useful life and the interest he has always taken in those with whom he has been associated.

CHARLES A. THRIFT.

Charles A. Thrift, well known to the people of Macon county, having most acceptably filled the office of sheriff of the county for four years, and a successful farmer and business man, was born in St. Clair county, Illinois, August 11, 1860. He is a son of Andrew J. Thrift, who was a native of Kentucky and came in the early days to St. Clair county, this state, locating in Macon county in 1863. He was a farmer and starting in this county with one hundred and sixty acres of land he increased his possessions until he became the owner of a valuable tract of four hundred and eighty acres. He was a democrat and was a man highly esteemed by his neighbors and friends on account of many valuable qualities. He married Anna C. Peters, who was born in Pennsylvania and came to this state with her parents and is now living in the city of Decatur. They had four children who are now living: Alonzo M., of Decatur; Charles A., the subject of this review; Mary, now Mrs. Welden, of Centralia, Illinois; and McKinney, of Alton, Illinois.

Charles A. Thrift came to Macon county with his parents in 1863. He received his education in the public schools and on laying aside his books devoted his attention to the farm, continuing under his father until he was twenty-seven years of age, when he was married and located on land which was owned by his father-in-law. In 1891 he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, comprising part of his present farm in Hickory Point township. By industry and good management he was able to purchase more land and now owns a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, which is under a fine state of cultivation

and has become quite valuable. For a number of years he was interested largely in the cattle business and fed a great many cattle upon his farm. Some years ago he removed to Decatur and he has since rented his land, his attention being applied especially to the mercantile business. In October, 1905, he purchased the business of J. M. Hughes & Company in Decatur and is now conducting it under the title of C. A. Thrift & Company, carrying farm machinery, seeds, wagons and buggies, and in these lines satisfying a growing demand, from a wide region.

In January, 1887, Mr. Thrift was united in marriage to Miss Jennie A. McKinley, who is a daughter of Samuel and Anna (Foren) McKinley, natives of Ohio and Alabama respectively. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. McKinley: William, John, Emma, Eugene, Amanda, Alice, Elsie, Esther, Jennie and Edward. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Thrift has been blessed by four children: Grace Lorraine, who was born March, 1889, and is now a student of the Millikin school; Helen McKinley, who was born January, 1892, and is a student of the same school; Charles Lawrence, born February, 1899; and Dorothy Jean, May, 1901.

Mr. Thrift has been for many years an active politician in Macon county. He has been identified with the democratic party and has acted as school director, collector, and sheriff of the county from 1902 to 1906, and for two terms as county supervisor, occupying that position at the present time. Socially he is affiliated with Lodge No. 312, A. F. & A. M.; with Lodge No. 700, I. O. O. F.; and Lodge No. 235, K. P. He has for many years held membership in the Methodist church at Forsyth, Illinois. From the beginning of his career he has shown an energy and ability that seldom fail to produce gratifying results, and he has been successful not only as a farmer but also as a public officer and as a merchant. He is blessed with a cheerful and loving wife, and a happy family and has the confidence and respect of those with whom he has been associated either politically, socially or in business.

GEORGE W. LEHMAN.

George W. Lehman, a well known business man of Decatur, who has also filled with general acceptance important public offices in Decatur and Macon county, is a native of Ohio. He was born near Springfield and is a son of Peter F. Lehman, who was born in Pennsylvania about 1829, but at the age of two years removed to Clark county, Ohio, and came to Macon county in the fall of 1865. He purchased a farm north of Bearsdale, upon which he located, and the son assisted in breaking the sod and named the town in honor of a Mr. Bear, who lived on that spot. This town was located on a railroad switch, which was put in upon the solicitation of Mr. Lehman and his son. The father was supervisor of Hickory Point township for many years and took quite a prominent interest in local politics. As a farmer and stock-raiser he attained marked success. He died in 1885, at the age of fifty-six years, and the general

expressions of regret indicated the high esteem in which he was held by the community. He wedded Mary J. Albin, who was born in Ohio about 1828 and is now living at 556 West Wood street, Decatur. Eight children were born to them, five of whom are now living: George W., of this review; Ida L., the wife of James B. Good, of Macon county; Emma L., now Mrs. Samuel Cousins, of Franklin, Illinois; Kate, now living with her mother; and Minnie, the wife of Charles Andrews, of Decatur. The mother had five brothers, Robert, Lemuel, George, Cyrus and Samuel, all of whom were brave and patriotic American citizens, as demonstrated by service under the stars and stripes at the time of the Civil war. Robert participated in Sherman's march to the sea. George was wounded at the battle of Chattanooga and subsequently died from the effects of his wounds. Lemuel gave up his life at the battle of Chickamauga. The Albin family is a family of fighters, grandfather Albin having served in the war of 1812.

George W. Lehman was educated in the common schools of the county and spent one year at Wesleyan University at Bloomington, Illinois. He began his business career upon the farm and also engaged in grain dealing until 1885, when he came to Decatur and for two years traveled for a Chicago firm, selling agricultural implements. Retiring from the road, he was engaged in the grocery business in Decatur for four years and then associated with a brother in the implement business as the Spencer-Lehman Company. After some years' experience in public office he became a member of the Lehman-Lewis Land Company, in which he has since continued. This company handles lands in the Red river valley, North Dakota, and as the men in charge are well qualified by experience and ability the operations have been carried on with a goodly measure of success.

Mr. Lehman for many years has been closely connected with political interests and has been prominent in the councils of the democratic party. For two years, from 1894 to 1896, he was chief of police of Decatur and in 1898 was elected sheriff of Macon county, serving for four years. In 1905 he was elected mayor of Decatur, which office he filled for a term of two years. As a public officer Mr. Lehman earned the approval of the best citizens of all parties and conducted the affairs of the various offices he filled with a conscientiousness and ability that reflected on him the highest credit.

About 1879 Mr. Lehman was united in marriage to Ida M. Lewis, a native of Hamilton, Ohio, whose father was David M. Lewis, a farmer. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Lehman: Don R., a lawyer, now married and living in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Evelyn, a graduate of the Currey School of Expression, Boston, and now a teacher in that school; and Everett, who is now a student taking the general course at Millikin University.

Mr. Lehman has been for a number of years a member of the Methodist church and socially he is affiliated with the Masonic order, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. He has through life been unusually active and efficient in whatever he has undertaken and has made many friends by his capable management of private and public affairs. He easily ranks as one of the most respected citizens of the country. A man of strong individuality, his contact with the world has

broadened his mind and developed his sympathies, so that he recognizes the limitations and needs of the various classes of society and never judges others harshly. As a patriotic citizen he takes a lively interest in everything pertaining to the community and is ever ready to assist in any way possible to advance its interests.

EDMUND S. McDONALD.

For thirty years past Edmund S. McDonald has been actively engaged in the practice of law in Decatur and has gained a reputation as one of the eminently successful attorneys in central Illinois. He has acquitted himself with the highest credit in public office and as a business man has shown an ability that has made him one of the large landowners of Macon county. Of Scotch ancestry on the paternal side, he was born at Sisson's Landing in Wood county, Virginia, now West Virginia, September 2, 1851, and is a son of John and Nancy L. (Sisson) McDonald, the former of whom was born in Philadelphia and there in infancy lost his father, who came to this country from Scotland. Very early in life John McDonald was taken to Milford, Ohio, now a suburb of Cincinnati, where the home of the family was established. As a boy he was employed in the milling and distilling business and later on the river, running between Cincinnati and New Orleans. On abandoning the river in 1853, he came to Illinois and spent a year in Scott county, at the end of which time he came to Decatur and soon afterward located in Long Creek township, Macon county. Here he purchased a tract of land and engaged in farming until his death, March 3, 1880. The mother of our subject departed this life in July, 1901. She belonged to one of the old and prominent families of Virginia and was a woman of many estimable qualities, that gained for her the respect of all with whom she was associated.

Edmund S. McDonald was educated in the public schools and for two years engaged in teaching. However, his mind was atracted to professional lines and for three years he read law in the office of Nelson & Roby, of Decatur. He was then admitted to practice but, desiring to prepare himself still further for his chosen work, he spent two years as a student in the law office of Crea & Ewing, also of Decatur. In May, 1880, Mr. McDonald opened a law office in this city and has continued in active practice ever since. He soon demonstrated his ability as a counselor and pleader and he has been identified with many of the most important legal causes in central Illinois. He has never chosen any specialty in his profession, preferring a general practice. In 1891 he was admitted to the bar of the United States supreme court, and from the beginning of his career he has always maintained a well equipped office, being the owner at the present time of one of the best selected law libraries in the state. While his attention has been mainly given to his profession he has made a number of lucrative investments and is a prominent landowner of the county.

Politically Mr. McDonald has given his support to the republican party and for many years has been recognized as a power in the politics of Macon county. In 1889 he was elected city attorney of Decatur and at the expiration of his term

was reelected to the same office, serving four years in all. In the spring of 1907 the voters of Decatur selected him as mayor of the city. During his term of office a large sewerage system was installed, the water-works, owned by the city, was rebuilt and many public improvements were made. While mayor of the city he became a member of the Mayors Association of Illinois and greatly assisted in building up the association to its present importance. He served as president of the organizaion for one term and now holds the chairmanship of its executive committee.

In August, 1892, Mr. McDonald was united in marriage to Miss Annabelle Thomas, of Decatur, and two children have been born to them, Edmund Urban and Valerian. In his wife Mr. McDonald has found an intelligent and helpful companion, who has been to her husband and children a constant support and encouragement in the pursuit of every worthy end.

Mr. McDonald was for five years a member of the Illinois National Guard and at the present time holds membership in the Masonic fraternity, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and a number of local lodges. His religious belief is indicated by his membership in St. John's Episcopal church of Decatur. Personally pleasing and affable, Mr. McDonald is a public-spirited man, ready and willing at all times to assist in forwarding the interests of the community. His advice is often sought in relation to important public policies and experience has shown that his opinions on public questions affecting this region are generally correct. No man in Macon county stands higher in the esteem of those who know him best, representing as he does in a remarkable degree the qualities of a good citizen, a kind husband and father and a real gentleman.

WILLIAM E. HARTMAN.

For the past twenty years Argenta has numbered William E. Hartman among its active, enterprising and progressive business men. He is a prominent representative of its mercantile interests and has gradually enlarged the scope of his activities until he now has one of the most extensive and best appointed stores of the town. He was born at Maroa on the 31st of May, 1870, and is a son of W. H. Hartman, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. His education was acquired in the public schools of his native town and he received his business training in his father's hardware store, assisting him for some time in its conduct and management, so that he was well qualified to take charge of the store independently, when in 1891 he bought out his father and became sole proprietor of the business. For some years they had carried on a tin shop and also dealt in shelf hardware. Afterward they increased their stock from time to time, adding heavy hardware, and today William E. Hartman has a large and well selected line of shelf and heavy hardware and tinware. He likewise carries a large line of machinery, farm implements and carriages, having a commodious room for storing the stock. Further extending the scope of his business, he added furniture and has built up a fine trade in this branch. His busi-

ness in all departments is liberally patronized, owing to his honorable methods and progressive spirit. He is one of the prominent and leading merchants not only of Argenta but of Macon county, his life being an exemplification of what may be accomplished through close attention to business and progressive methods.

On the 15th of August, 1891, in Argenta, William E. Hartman was married to Miss Edna I. Welton, who was born, reared and educated in this town. They are the parents of seven children: Ernest Hartman, who is now a student in the Decatur high school; Leslie, who is assisting his father in the store; Eva, a student in the conservatory of music in Decatur; Clyde, Herbert, Merwin and Florence, all at home. Mr. Hartman purchased a five-acre tract of land upon which he erected a large residence thoroughly modern in style of architecture and its equipments. In fact it is one of the best homes in the village, tastefully furnished, and is moreover the abode of a warm-hearted and generous hospitality.

William E. Hartman has followed in the political footsteps of his father, for his mature judgment has endorsed the principles of the republican party and he has taken an active and helpful interest in promoting its growth and electing its candidates. He has himself served in various public offices and through the discharge of his duties the best interests of Argenta have been advanced. For fifteen years he was a member of the town council and for two terms filled the office of mayor. He also has served for a number of years as school treasurer, being the present incumbent. To his political duties he brings the same clear insight and enterprising spirit which are manifest in the conduct of his business affairs. In the moral development of the town he is also interested and he and his wife are active members of the Presbyterian church, in which he is serving as an elder. He belongs to the Odd Fellows lodge at Argenta, in which he has filled all of the chairs and is a past grand. He has likewise twice represented his lodge in the grand lodge of the state and is a member of the Sons of Veterans camp at Decatur. Argenta owes much to him in the way of business development and because of his public spirit, which has been again and again manifest in active cooperation with all those movements which tend to promote the material, intellectual, social and political welfare of the community.

WILLIAM E. KNIGHT, SR.

In some of Decatur's finest business blocks and residences are found the monument to the enterprise, labor and business ability of William E. Knight, Sr., a well known contractor of this city. He was born in La Salle, Illinois, October 5, 1857, a son of John and Elmira (Shepherd) Knight, natives of Baltimore, Maryland, who in the year 1855 removed westward to Illinois. The father was not long permitted to enjoy his new home, for his death occurred in 1859, when he was but forty-six years of age. His wife survived him until 1871 and passed away at the age of fifty years. He was a carriage manufacturer in Baltimore and in early days there employed slaves to do his work. In his business life he was quite successful.

On the 4th of March, 1864, the family removed from La Salle, Illinois, to Decatur, where William E. Knight has since made his home. He acquired his education by attending the public schools until eighteen years of age, when he learned the carpenter's trade, serving a three years' apprenticeship. During that period he gained a comprehensive, practical knowledge of the business in its various phases and in 1891 he began general contracting on his own account, his work including all kinds of construction. He erected the Home Telephone building, the Danzeisen block and other large business blocks, together with many of the city's attractive residences. He always lives faithfully up to the terms of a contract and the work executed under his direction is of substantial character as well as of attractive style of architecture.

On the 13th of November, 1881, Mr. Knight was united in marriage to Miss Sarah E. Davis, of Lynnville, Illinois, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Davis, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Illinois. The father followed farming for many years and died in 1893 at the age of eighty-two. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Knight have been born seven children: Laura L.; Irene; William E., who is now preparing for a commercial career; and four sons who died in infancy.

Mr. Knight and his family attend the Christian church. His political endorsement is given to the democratic party and he was elected alderman for a two years' term. He capably and faithfully discharged the duties of the position, but has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs and the pleasures of social life. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias lodge and to the Modern Woodmen of America and enjoys the high regard of his brethren of those fraternities. A spirit of enterprise and progress actuates him in all that he does, being manifest in the relations of private life as well as in business.

JOHN E. COOPER.

John E. Cooper, who devotes his time and energies to general agricultural pursuits in Maroa township, was born in Fountain county, Indiana, in 1856, his parents being Alexander and Elizabeth (Stoup) Cooper, natives of Ohio. The father's birth occurred in the year 1830, while the mother was born in 1832. Alexander Cooper, an agriculturist by occupation, followed that pursuit in Ohio prior to his removal to Indiana, from which state he came to Illinois. Here he purchased two hundred and ten acres of land, but passed away four years later, being called to his final rest in 1876. It was in Indiana that he wedded Miss Elizabeth Stoup, who now resides with her son John. They became the parents of ten children, three of whom, two sons and a daughter, have passed away. The surviving children are as follows: Mrs. Margaret Kaley, John E. Cooper, Mrs. Julia Gardner, Mrs. Lottie Brill, Mrs. Mollie Dine, Mrs. Kate Barger and Mrs. Thera Carroll.

John E. Cooper obtained his early education in the schools of his native county and later continued his studies in Illinois. Since the age of sixteen years he managed the home farm in Maroa township, Macon county. He owns about

twenty-seven acres and also cultivates his mother's tract of seventy acres. His labors in the fields are annually rewarded by golden harvests and he has long been numbered among the enterprising and energetic agriculturists of the community. Both he and his mother have resided here continuously for almost forty years and the circle of their friends is almost coextensive with the circle of their acquaintances. Mr. Cooper gives his political allegiance to the democratic party, being a firm believer in its principles.

EDWIN CHAPPELL, SR.

Edwin Chappell, Sr., a prosperous farmer of South Wheatland township, Macon county, was born October 3, 1852, in Somersetshire, England, his parents being James and Jane Chappell, both natives of England but of French descent. The father departed this life in 1865, at the age of forty years, but the venerable mother is still living in the old country.

Mr. Chappell was educated in the common schools and grew up upon the farm where his father lived, becoming well acquainted with farming operations. As a young man he was ambitious and enterprising and desirous of making more rapid advancement than appeared possible in his native land, so he decided to seek his fortune under the flag of the American republic. Landing in New York, he went west to Kansas and after one month in the Sunflower state returned eastward as far as Macon county, Illinois, but afterward went to Texas, where he spent one year. In 1884 he purchased forty acres of land in this county, which is a portion of the farm on which he now lives, and a year later purchased forty acres adjoining, buying and selling at various times until today he is the owner of a well improved farm of one hundred and two acres, which is one of the desirable properties in the neighborhood. He is engaged in general farming and stock-raising.

On March 5, 1885, Mr. Chappell was united in marriage to Miss Mary Sterr of Kercheim-unter-Teck, Wurtemberg, Germany, who came to America in 1881 and joined her brother in Decatur, with whom she made her home until her marriage. She was born March 9, 1853, and has been to her husband a true helpmeet. Three children have blessed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chappell: Edwin James, born April 16, 1886, is at home; Emily, born May 30, 1887, married to Edward P. Brown, of Warrensburg, Illinois, and is the mother of one child, Pauline; and Anna C., born March 9, 1890, is the wife of John M. Tilton, a native of Macon county, now living in Shelby county, Illinois, and they have one child, Earl.

Mr. Chappell as a patriotic citizen of his adopted country made a careful study of the teachings of the various political parties and as a result accepted the platform of the republican party as the one upon which he has pinned his political faith. He and his family are esteemed members of the English Lutheran church of Decatur and by their influence and example have shown themselves to be worthy followers of the Great Master. Mr. Chappell as a boy acquired habits of industry, which he has had opportunity to put into daily practice in

MR. AND MRS. EDWIN CHAPPELL

the course of an honorable and useful life and he does not regret that he cast his lot under the protection of the stars and stripes. Here he has found friends and has acquired a competence that promises to keep the wolf from the door however long he or his beloved wife may live. His kindly disposition has endeared him to people of the entire neighborhood and no man can have a higher recommendation than the respect and confidence of his neighbors.

BENEDICT A. McGORRAY.

The office of sheriff of Macon county, occupied by Benedict A. McGorray, is one of high responsibility and calls for a man of sterling qualities and unimpeachable record. He has filled the position to the satisfaction of the courts and the people for four years and has demonstrated his peculiar fitness for a place which requires a cool head, good judgment and the rare ability to know the right thing to do at a critical moment. The sheriff is the conservator of peace, and while he is the terror of evil-doers, he is the friend of every law-abiding citizen. The very presence of the sheriff, backed as he is by the legal authority of the county and the good-will of every right-minded citizen, generally means peace where there was discord, and where the right man occupies the sheriff's office the tax-payer feels that his property is safe.

Sheriff McGorray was in the course of years naturally attracted to the position he occupies. He traces his lineage far back on the Emerald isle, where the McGorrays have long lived and flourished and from whose blood many of the strong-armed representatives of law and order in America, not only in Illinois but elsewhere, have been drawn. He is the son of Benedict and Catharine (O'Brien) McGorray, the former a native of County Derry and the latter a native of County Galway, Ireland. The father came to America in 1832, at the age of seven years, and the girl who later became his wife landed on these shores at eleven years of age. In 1853 the couple were united in marriage at Belleville, Illinois, moving four years later to Decatur, which they made their permanent home. The railway reached the inland village in 1854 and at the opening of the Civil war Decatur was one of the most flourishing towns in the interior of the state. Mr. McGorray was connected for many years with the brick business and occupied for two terms the office of justice of the peace of Decatur township. He was an ardent lover of the country of his adoption and when the call for volunteers in behalf of the Union was made in 1861 he was among the first who presented themselves to fight under the stars and stripes. The quota for Illinois being full, he did not allow this to dampen his ardor but crossed the Mississippi river to Missouri, where he enrolled his name in the First Missouri Engineers under Colonel Bessell. At the expiration of his term of enlistment he was commissioned as second lieutenant in the Fifth United States Heavy Artillery, a colored regiment with white officers, in which he served with the highest credit. He participated in the siege of Vicksburg under General Grant and was under General Pope at Island No. 10. Mr. McGorray departed this life after many years of usefulness, in 1902, leaving a memory cherished

by a wide circle of friends and relatives. His widow still survives at the age of eighty-three and makes her home at Decatur with a daughter, Mrs. Hammon. Nine children were born unto Benedict and Catharine McGorray, seven of whom are living. The names of the children are: Mary A., the wife of John S. Dempsey, of Springfield, Illinois; Sarah E., a widow; Benedict A., the subject of this sketch; Daniel E., in the south; John, who died in 1885; Margaret, the wife of Harry Schlaudeman of Pasadena, California; Catharine; Cora, the wife of P. P. Hammon of Decatur; and Winfield S., deceased.

Sheriff McGorray was born at Decatur, March 25, 1858. He received his education in the public schools and later was connected with the brick business for a number of years. Later he was identified with the ice business, but has devoted his entire attention to the duties of his office since 1906, when he entered upon a term of four years, expiring December 5, 1910. A republican in politics, he has always upheld the principles for which his father fought. He owns a well improved farm in South Wheatland township, which is now under lease.

On the 30th of June, 1890, Benedict A. McGorray and Miss Lillie Schlaudeman, a native of Macon county, were united in marriage. Their union, which has proven a most happy one, has been blessed with two children: Charles H. and Catharine H. At the head of a peaceful and contented family circle, the years have passed pleasantly and the honors which have come because they were well earned give assurance of continued prosperity.

MELVIN PORTER PARRISH, M. D.

In a history of the medical profession in Decatur it is imperative that reference be made to Dr. Melvin Porter Parrish, who is not only one of the prominent physicians and surgeons of this city but also of central Illinois. His skill and ability have carried him far beyond the point of mediocrity and his continuous reading and research are manifest in the power which he displays in coping with the intricate problems that continuously confront the physician.

A native of Ohio, he was born in the year 1867 of the marriage of John and Elizabeth (Donnelly) Parrish, the former a pioneer farmer of Vermilion county, Illinois. On the westward removal the father made the journey from Coshocton county, Ohio, in a prairie schooner. Casting in his lot with the early settlers, he secured a tract of land upon which not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made. This was located in Sidell township, Vermilion county, and with characteristic energy he began the development of the place, which his labors transformed into a productive farm. Year by year he carefully tilled the soil and his practical methods resulted in the production of good crops. He was also prominent in the affairs of the community and was called to fill local office, serving as supervisor, as a member of the school board, and in other positions. He was as well known for his honesty as for his activity in business affairs and at his death left a most creditable record. He passed away November 1, 1909, at the age of seventy-one years, and his wife, whose death occurred on the 28th of January, 1905, died at the age of sixty-three years.

Dr. Parrish was the second in order of birth in a family of six children, three sons and three daughters, all of whom are yet living. His youthful days were spent upon the home farm and he early became familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He spent the summer seasons at work in the fields and in the winter months pursued his studies in the district school until he had mastered the branches that constituted its curriculum, after which he attended the high schools at Fairmount and Danville, Illinois.

His literary course completed, he turned his attention to preparation for the medical profession. His early studies and experiences in this line came to him in connection with the Wabash Hospital at Springfield, Illinois, and later he matriculated in Rush Medical College of Chicago, in which he pursued his course to graduation as a member of the class of 1895. He then received the appointment of house surgeon in the Wabash Hospital of Peru, Indiana, and proved so capable in that connection that he was transferred to Decatur, where he has now lived for fourteen years, arriving here in May, 1896. At first there was but a dispensary here, but subsequently the hospital was removed to this place and in connection therewith, as well as in the private practice of his profession, Dr. Parrish has gained recognition as one of the eminent surgeons of central Illinois. He is a member of the Decatur Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, and in 1910 was made secretary of the surgical section of the state society.

In 1896 Dr. Parrish was married to Miss Frances Emma Barkley, a native of New York, and to them have been born three children, George Melvin, John Smith and Francis Barkley. Dr. Parrish is well known in fraternal and social circles. He belongs to the Masonic lodge and Knights Templar commandery in Decatur and to the Decatur Club. He gives his political allegiance to the democratic party where national questions and principles are involved, but casts an independent local ballot. He carefully considers every point of interest to the community and supports measures and movements which he deems of benefit to the city along material, social, intellectual and moral lines. His attention, however, is chiefly concentrated upon his professional duties and in this field he has displayed ability which has gained him marked distinction.

F. L. WREN.

F. L. Wren, a successful grocer of Niantic, Illinois, was born on a farm in Moultrie county, this state, April 3, 1872, a son of E. M. and Mary E. (Brown) Wren. He was educated in the district schools until he was eleven years of age, when he began working for one of the neighboring farmers, receiving thirteen dollars per month for his labor. At the age of twelve years he lost his mother and in 1885 the father removed to Hammond, Piatt county, this state, where the son entered the service of J. R. Wortham, a merchant and landowner. After working for four years for Mr. Wortham on a farm, he was taken into the store as a clerk and there he became acquainted with the grocery business during a period of four years, when he opened a store of his own in Hammond,

conducting it for five years. In 1900 he disposed of the store and removed to Niantic, where he began clerking. But Mr. Wren is not a man to be long satisfied with a subordinate position and having acquired a little capital, he established a grocery of his own in 1905, which he has conducted with such success that it is now one of the leading stores of the town. A man of good business ability, Mr. Wren occupies an honorable position in the community and is highly respected by his business associates.

On March 13, 1898, at Oconee, Shelby county, Mr. Wren was united in marriage to Miss Etta Hill, a daughter of Rev. M. V. and Josephine Hill, the father being a well known Methodist minister. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Wren, but Paul R. died October 11, 1910, at the age of eight years, nine months and twenty-three days. The other child is Esther E.

Mr. Wren was reared a democrat, but his experience in the world has greatly broadened his views and for some years he has been independent in politics, voting for those men whom he considers most worthy of his support regardless of their party affiliation. He and his wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church and he also belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America whose principles he regards as being essentially those that apply to the great teachings of universal brotherhood. Mr. Wren has exemplified in his life that a young man of good habits and ambition may succeed, even though he may not have possessed advantages in his early life and has only himself to rely upon. He has also learned that talent is not a necessity for success, but the object may be gained by persistence and a reasonable endowment of common sense. He and his wife are respected members of the community where they have made many friends by their upright lives.

EDWARD L. HARRIS.

Edward L. Harris, who established the firm of E. L. Harris & Company of Decatur on the 1st of February, 1909, has since conducted an extensive business in plumbing, heating and lighting and also as a dealer in engineers' supplies. His birth occurred in Montgomery county, Illinois, on the 30th of January, 1868, his parents being James L. and Jane L. (Landon) Harris, who were natives of Massachusetts and Illinois respectively. He attended the grammar and high schools of Litchfield in the acquirement of an education and in 1882 began learning the plumber's trade, entering upon an apprenticeship with H. Mueller & Son, of Decatur. For a period of nineteen years he remained in the employ of that concern, working as a journeyman plumber. During the following eight years he conducted business as a member of the firm of Field, Shorb & Company. One the 1st of Febuary, 1909, he established his present enterprise at No. 352 North Main street and under the style of E. L. Harris & Company has since built up a large business in plumbing, heating, lighting, etc.

On the 16th of April, 1895, Mr. Harris was united in marriage to Miss Helen L. Rourk, of Sterling, Illinois. Unto them were born three children, namely: Irene, who was born February 18, 1896, and died July 2, 1896; Lloyd D., whose

birth occurred on the 10th of January, 1898; and Edina E., who passed away in October 11, 1909, when ten years of age.

When exercising his right of franchise Mr. Harris is not bound by party ties, but casts an independent ballot, supporting the men and measures that he believes will best conserve the general welfare. Fraternally he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America, while his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Congregational church, to which his wife also belongs. In his business career he has made steady advancement and has attained a creditable position by his indefatigable labor and effort.

WILLIAM CLARK BRELSFOARD.

Although still living upon a farm, his present home being about five miles north of Warrensburg, William Clark Brelsfoard has practically retired from the active work of the fields, for he has passed the seventy-seventh milestone on life's journey. He was born March 22, 1833, near Middletown, Ohio, and is a son of Benjamin and Jane (Van Cleve) Brelsfoard. The father was a native of Berks county, Pennsylvania, born in 1796. When he decided to remove westward, he made a trip on a raft to Cincinnati, Ohio, being at that time a young man. He served in the war of 1812 under Mad Anthony Wayne and helped to build the last fort at Defiance, Ohio. He then removed northward to Middletown, Ohio, where he made a permanent settlement, residing there up to the time of his demise. Upon the tract of land which he there secured and transformed into a good farm, William C. Brelsfoard was born and reared, and in the schools of his native state he pursued his education. At the age of thirty years he removed to Illinois, settling first in De Witt county and in 1866 he took up his abode upon his present farm, remaining thereon continuously since. or for a period of more than forty-four years. He borrowed the sum of two thousand dollars with which to make a payment upon his first one hundred and sixty acres and through the development and cultivation of his land and the sale of his crops he soon gained a sum sufficient to pay off his indebtedness. As his financial resources have further increased he has added to his property until he is now the owner of four hundred acres of fine land, constituting one of the valuable farms of the county. It is pleasantly and conveniently situated about five miles north of Warrensburg, so that the conveniences and opportunities of the city are easily obtained.

Mr. Brelsfoard was married in October, 1855, to Miss Susan Detro, who was born in Preble county, Ohio, near Eaton. They traveled life's journey happily together for twenty years and were then separated by the death of the wife, who passed away in 1875. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Brelsfoard were born seven children. Benjamin married Miss Emma High and they have four children, Orville, Frank, Elmer and Myrtle. William married a lady from Minnesota and resides in South Dakota. Maria is the wife of John Bost. Pearson married Marie Mure and has three children. Henry married a Miss Denger and has one child, who is his namesake. Lydia is the wife of Edward Giddle and has several

children. Eugene married Dennis Bost, by whom she has four children, Jesse, Ethel, Eunice and Beatrice and they live in Canada. After losing his first wife Mr. Brelsfoard was married again, in October, 1886, his second union being with Ella Bost, a native of Douglas county, Illinois, and a representative of one of the old pioneer families of Logan county.

Mr. Brelsfoard has been somewhat prominent in community affairs. He several times served as road commissioner and has done much to improve the condition of the public highways in his part of the county. He has also served on the school board and the cause of education finds in him a warm friend. His life has been a very busy and useful one, and while carefully managing his business affairs so as to gain creditable success, he has at the same time manifested a public-spirited interest in everything pertaining to the general welfare and has done much to aid in the work of public progress.

W. H. HARTMAN.

The business interests of Maroa and Argenta have been stimulated through the efforts and activities of W. H. Hartman, now well known and prominent among the business men of Macon county, within whose borders he has made his home since 1864. He now resides in Argenta but has a wide acquaintance throughout this part of the state. His birth occurred in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, November 27, 1840, and there he was reared and educated, pursuing his studies in the public schools. His youthful environment was that of the home farm and he early became familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist.

In days of peace the spark of patriotism in most men lies latent but with the rumors of war it is at once fanned into flame. Such was the record of Mr. Hartman, who, when his country became involved in a military contest concerning the right of part of the states to secede from the Union, joined the army of the north, enlisting on the 3d of August, 1862, as a member of Company H, One Hundred and Thirty-second Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. The regiment was assigned to the Army of the Potomac. There was little time spent in preliminary preparation and drill, for six weeks from the day on which he enlisted Mr. Hartman was participating in the battle of Antietam, facing the heavy fire of the enemy. The regiment on that occasion lost one hundred and four men. Later he participated in the battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and in many skirmishes and battles of lesser importance, serving until the end of the term of his enlistment, when he was honorably discharged in the spring of 1864.

In July of the same year Mr. Hartman removed westward to Illinois and has since been identified with the interests of Macon county. He purchased a lot in Maroa, on which he erected a business house and put in a stock of stoves and tinware, having learned the tinner's trade prior to the war. Subsequently he added a full line of shelf and heavy hardware and continued actively in business at Maroa until 1888, when he sold out there. He then erected

a business block in Argenta and became a hardware merchant of this city, remaining a factor in trade interests here until he sold out to his son, W. E. Hartman. The father is now living retired, enjoying a rest which he has truly earned and richly merits.

Mr. Hartman was married in Maroa to Miss Sarah Barger, who was a native of Wisconsin but was reared in Maroa. They became the parents of three children: W. E., who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume; Robert C., who works in his brother's store; and Estella, who died at the age of eleven months. The wife and mother passed away in Argenta and the father afterward married Mrs. Brenan, a widow, who was born in Pennsylvania. The marriage was celebrated in 1895. While living in Maroa Mr. Hartman built a residence there which he afterward sold and purchased a home in Argenta, in which he is now pleasantly located, his former success supplying him with all of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life.

In his political views Mr. Hartman has ever been a stalwart republican, standing as a stanch supporter of the party which was the defender of the Union during the dark days of the Civil war and has always been the party of reform and progress. His fellow townsmen, appreciative of his worth and ability, have called him to a number of local offices of honor and trust. He has served as justice of the peace, as police magistrate and notary public and at Maroa was also a member of the town council. He has likewise been a delegate to numerous conventions of his party and his opinions have carried weight in its local councils. He has been a resident of Macon county for forty-six years and has witnessed much of its growth and development. In the work of progress he has also borne his share and has lived an active and useful life which has gained for him the warm regard of his fellowmen, while his social qualities have won for him the friendship of many with whom he has come in contact.

JOHN L. HELPHINSTINE.

John L. Helphinstine is one of the fortunate agriculturists of Macon county, being the owner of a well improved farm of over eighty acres, and occupies an enviable position in the community. He was born on a farm near Hillsboro, Kentucky, February 11, 1876, and is a son of John P. and Lucinda (Smoot) Helphinstine. The father was also born in that state and spent his life there upon a farm. The subject of this review was educated in the public schools, pursuing his studies mostly during the winter time and assisting upon the farm through the summer season. Under the direction of his father he became thoroughly familiar with agricultural pursuits and remained a member of the household until he was eighteen years of age. At that time he became self-supporting and for four years he was in the employ of neighboring farmers. However, he came to the conclusion that conditions were more favorable in this state and he acordingly migrated to Macon county, where he secured a position in Harristown township, working by the month. After four years in his new location he went to Decatur and for some time worked at the carpenter's trade.

On October 8, 1902, Mr. Helphinstine was united in marriage to Miss Cotna A. Leonard, of Harristown township, which was also the place of her birth, June 23, 1880. She is a daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Foster) Leonard, mentioned elsewhere in this work. In settlement of the Leonard estate Mrs. Helphinstine inherited about sixty-seven acres, since which time the interest of one of the other heirs has been purchased and the farm, which is located on section 13, Harristown township, is now a well improved tract of eighty-two acres with convenient buildings and other accessories that are to be found on any well conducted farm.

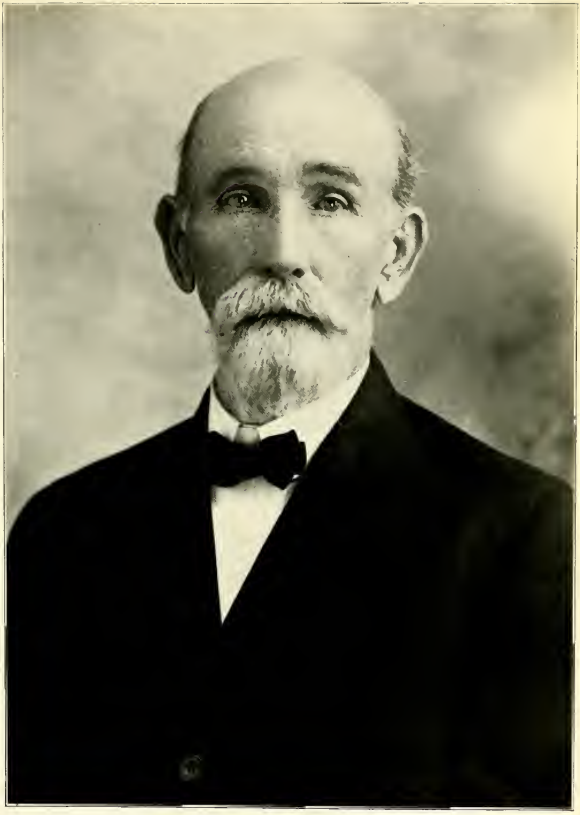
Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Helphinstine: Samuel Payton, born May 6, 1903, in the village of Harristown; Lucille Elizabeth, born on the home farm, March 26, 1905; and Gladys Irene, born in Decatur, November 2, 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Helphinstine are both active members of the Christian church, her membership being in the church at Decatur and his home at Ringos Mills, Kentucky. He was reared a democrat but for a number of years has been independent in politics and votes for the man rather than the party. He has never been an office seeker but is public-spirited and energetic in support of all enterprises calculated to benefit the community and possessess those qualities of character that command the respect of all who know him.

DAVID L. SCHROLL.

David L. Schroll now makes his home in the town of Warrensburg, where he is living retired, but for many years he was closely and actively asscociated with agricultural interests and is still owner of a valuable farm of two hundred and forty acres just north of the town and an eighty acre tract about three miles north of his other place. His farms return to him an excellent annual income, supplying him with all of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life. Energy and determination have been salient features in his career and by reason of his intelligently directed industry and his integrity in business matters he has gained the prosperity which is now his.

Mr. Schroll was born in Ashland, Ohio, December 24, 1840, and is a son of David and Maria (Lehman) Schroll. The father's birth occurred in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1812, and as the family name indicates he is descended from German ancestry. When about twenty years of age he left the Keystone state and removed to Ohio, where he hewed out a farm in the midst of a forest, his first home being one of the primitive log cabins of pioneer days. He first owned but thirty-three acres of land but he afterward added more as his financial resources increased. He died in 1877 and his wife survived him three years, passing away in 1880.

David L. Schroll pursued his education in the schools of Ashland, Ohio, where he was living at the time of the outbreak of the Civil war. His patriotic spirit was aroused by the attempt of the south to overthrow the Union and he enlisted as a member of the Forty-second Ohio Infantry, with which he served for three years, proving an efficient, capable soldier whose loyalty to the Union cause was



DAVID L. SCHROLL

never questioned. He participated in a number of important engagements and returned home with a most creditable military record.

When the war was over Mr. Schroll again took up his abode in Ohio, where he stayed for a time, but later went to Indiana, where he hired out as a farm hand and worked for one summer. He then came to Illinois and settled in Macon county, where he was employed by a relative for two years. He next began farming on his own account by renting land and subsequently purchased fifty acres, for which he paid sixteen hundred dollars. From that time on he has been very succesful. He bent every energy to the further development and improvement of his property and as the years passed on his fields became more and more productive and he was thus able to add to his annual income. In course of time his business became sufficiently remunerative and valuable to enable him to live retired and he took up his abode in Warrensburg, where he now makes his home.

In 1867 Mr. Schroll was united in marriage to Miss Emma Watkins, a representative of a prominent family of this county. They became the parents of two children: Alice, who married George Faith and has two children, David and Joy; and David, who was the only son of that marriage. He lived to be only about seven months old, The mother passed away in 1870. Mr. Schroll later wedded Mary Beall.

At one time Mr. Schroll was president of the Illini Mutual Fire Insurance Company but resigned some years ago. He belongs to the Congregational church and is a very public-spirited man, taking an active and helpful interest in many movements and meaures for the general good. As the years have gone by he has firmly intrenched himself in the regard, respect and confidence of his fellowmen and well deserves mention in this volume as one of the representative citizens of Macon county.

JONES & McLAUGHLIN.

One of the recently formed law partnerships of Decatur is that of Jones & McLaughlin, organized in August, 1910, with offices in the Citizens Title & Trust building. The members of the firm, Alba Allen Jones and Joseph Lyons McLaughlin, graduated in law in 1910 and 1909 respectively and have now fairly entered upon the practice of a profession to which they are devoting their best energies.

Alba Allen Jones, the senior member of the firm, was born in Macon county, January 13, 1876, and is a son of John Wesley Jones, who was born in Sangamon county, this state, February 17, 1845, and came to Macon county with his parents about 1849. The mother who bore the maiden name of Catherine Johnson, was born in Ohio, January 18, 1853. Both sides of the house have produced stanch fighters, who risked their lives for what they considered to be right. The grandfather of Mrs. Jones served as captain in the Black Hawk war and Hugh Jones, a brother of John Wesley Jones, enlisted in an Illinois regiment under the stars and stripes in the Civil war and gave up his life for his country at the battle of Shiloh. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Jones was brightened by the arrival

of eight children, five of whom are now living: Corwin E., of Long Creek, Macon county; Alba Allen, of this review; Bertha, at home; Bernice A., now Mrs. Truman Quintus Sanner, of Shelby county; and Hugh W., of Casner, Macon county.

As a boy Alba Allen Jones was reared upon the home farm and received his preliminary education in the district schools. He was a diligent student and unusually quick to learn, so that when he arrived at the age of sixteen he presented himself for examination as a teacher and successfully passed the test, but the examiners announced that he was too young to receive his certificate. He became a student at the Western Illinois Normal School at Bushnell, Illinois, and in the spring of 1894, having then arrived at the age of eighteen, he began teaching in Macon county, his first school being Harmony school in Milan township. He next taught in the intermediate department of the schools at Warrensburg and for the following three years he was identified with the Union and Bois D'Arc schools. For three years he was principal of the Boody schools and attained a marked degree of success as a teacher. In 1902 he was elected county superintendent of schools, of Macon county, being known as the "kid" candidate and receiving the largest plurality of any candidate for that position up to the time of his election. He served in this capacity with general acceptance to the people for four years. While teaching school Mr. Jones devoted a great deal of time to the study of law, having decided that he would ultimately enter the legal profession. He became a student of the College of Law of the University of Illinois and in 1910 was graduated from that institution with the degree of LL. B. On April 6 of the same year he was admitted to the bar and has since engaged in practice.

On December 8, 1904, Mr. Jones was united in marriage to Miss Martha Frances Cox, who was born at Arcola, Douglas county, this state, March 7, 1884, a daughter of James M. and Frances Taylor (Hall) Cox. Her father, who was a well known farmer and live-stock dealer, is now deceased.

Mr. Jones as a result of his observation and study has allied himself with the republican party and is an earnest advocate of its principles. He is a member of the Methodist church and is identified with the Masonic order, having taken the degrees of the blue lodge, chapter, council, commandery and shrine. He also holds membership in the Order of the Eastern Star, the Knights of Pythias, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and as he is a man of pronounced social characteristics he has many warm friends in those organizations. Mr. Jones, although a young man, has had a practical experience as a teacher and public officer and has shown a good judgment that augurs well for his future. Ambitious, diligent in whatever he undertakes and capable in execution, he has now found a work well suited to his capacity and one which promises for him abundant returns.

Joseph Lyons McLaughlin was born at Salem, Illinois, August 28, 1883, a son of Joseph Knox and Tirzah (Morton) McLaughlin. The father was born in Marion county, Illinois, in September, 1850, and the mother in the same county in 1851. Mr. McLaughlin, Sr., is a farmer and live-stock dealer and for two terms served as member of the board of supervisors for his township. In his family are nine children: Charles T., of Marion county; Calvin J., of

Salem, Illinois; Harry H., of Old Trail, South Dakota; Stella M., now Mrs. W. R. Burgess, of Marion county; Joseph Lyons, of this review; Hugh Archie, of Marion county; Robert J., also of Marion county; and Walter W. and Elma A., both living at home.

Joseph L. McLaughlin attended the common schools of the county and then for three years was a student of the Southern Illinois Normal University. After teaching school for two years he entered the University of Illinois in 1906 and was graduated with the honors of his class and the degree of LL. B. in 1909. Entering the law office of Hon. F. B. Hamill, of Champaign, Illinois, he continued there until he became associated with Mr. Jones in practice in Decatur. Mr. McLaughlin gives his allegiance to the democratic party. He holds membership in the Masonic order, the Theta Kappa Nu, Delta Sigma Rho and the Egyptian Club, the last three organizations named being college societies. He was a member of two college debating teams and early gave evidence of a talent for public speaking that is highly valuable in the practice of law, provided it is under the safe control of a well regulated judgment. Mr. McLaughlin has from the outset of his career been guided by high ideals and the young man who thus launches his ship has made a favorable start on the voyage that should, indeed, be prosperous. That the subject of this review will be able to give a good account of himself in years to come is confidently prophesied by his friends.

MELVIN A. KRASCHEL.

Melvin A. Kraschel, who operates a fine farm of two hundred and fifty acres on section 27, South Macon township, is recognized as one of the prominent breeders of hogs in Illinois and his herd of pure bred Duroc Jerseys has a reputation extending over many states. He has devoted a great deal of time and expense to his specialty and the results indicate that his labor has not been in vain. Hogs from his farm have carried off the blue ribbon in competition with long established herds and today no man in the business in Illinois has a better record as a breeder of pure bred swine than the subject of this review.

Mr. Kraschel was born on a farm in Macon county, October 7, 1874, his parents being Fred and Nancy Jane (Poe) Kraschel, a record of whom appears elsewhere in this work, and is the eldest of five children, the other members of the family being: Theodore F., who was born April 23, 1876, and died when sixteen years of age; Ella E., who was born March 1, 1878, and is now the wife of Charles Carr, of Macon county; Hattie E., who was born December 6, 1884, and died August 6, 1887; and Nelson G., who was born October 27, 1889, and is now in Harlan, Iowa.

The subject of this review was educated in the common schools and after laying aside his books continued upon the farm until 1895, when he began farming for himself on land owned by his father in South Wheatland township. Five years later he moved to the place he has since occupied and here he has engaged in general farming and stock-raising with an unusual degree of success. A

number of years ago he became greatly interested in pure bred Duroc Jersey hogs and he makes a specialty of this branch, also keeping some pure bred Englishshire stallions. He has exhibited Duroc Jerseys at eleven state fairs in Illinois and received premiums at every exhibition except the first. He has also exhibited one year at the state fairs of Iowa and Ohio and two years at the Indiana state fair and in each case was awarded premiums. He has gained a high reputation as a judge of hogs and acted in that capacity at the Illinois and Kentucky state fairs in 1908 with such satisfaction to competitors that he was called upon to serve in a similar capacity at both fairs in 1910.

On December 31, 1895, Mr. Kraschel was united in marriage to Miss Jessie L. Bromley, a daughter of Fernando and Christie A. (Clifton) Bromley, both natives of New York. She is a lady of many excellent attainments and presides over one of the happiest homes in the county. She is a native of Macon county, born October 30, 1878. Four children have brightened the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kraschel: Leo Fay, born October 29, 1896; Thomas G., April 15, 1899; Robert, March 27, 1901; and Howard D., July 3, 1903.

Mr. Kraschel is a member of South Macon Lodge, No. 467, A. F. & A. M., and also of Beacon Lodge, No. 434, K. P., and of the Modern Woodmen of America. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party. He has never aspired to public office, as his interest is centered in the work to which he has given a great deal of time. It is a long step from the razor-backed hog to the standard hog now being delivered to the packing houses, but Mr. Kraschel recognizes that greater improvement is yet possible. In one sense he is a missionary and cannot fail to be a benefactor. He is a persistent advocate of improvement in the hog and he has been instrumental in no small degree in arousing a sentiment in its favor. He is an enthusiastic and hard working man in anything he undertakes and has met with deserved success in a vocation to which he is devoting his best energies.

MONTFORD E. PENIWELL.

No record of Macon county would be complete without the sketch of Montford E. Peniwell, county clerk and the worthy son of a worthy father who proved his courage and devotion to the Union by four years of faithful service in the field. There is no doubt that blood "tells" in the great game of life and in the struggle it is often the one who has a good foundation in a robust ancestry that wins the day. It is an observed fact that the sons of veterans of the Civil war, both north and south, are materially in evidence all over the country, inheriting, as very many of them do, the characteristics of fortitude and spirit of self-denial that enabled their fathers to meet undaunted the dangers of the battlefield and the anxieties of separation from home, with possibilities of never beholding the familiar faces again. Many sons of noble soldiers are filling positions of trust and responsibility and among them is the subject of this review, who has attained his position mainly through his own efforts and without the assistance of wealth or influence of interests inimical to the best welfare of the state.

Montford E. Peniwell is a native of Moultrie county, Illinois, born December 10, 1865, and is a son of Thomas and Mary E. (Dawson) Peniwell, natives of Indiana and Delaware respectfully. Thomas Peniwell, who was a farmer and merchant, located at Decatur about 1860. The great interests involved in the conflict between the Union and the Confederacy aroused his patriotism and he freely offered his life in defense of the principles which he believed to be the foundation of the republic. He enlisted in Battery I, Second Illinois Artillery, and served throughout the entire war on many a bloody field, as those who are familiar with the fighting characteristics of the Second Artillery will testify. He was wounded at the battle of Kenesaw Mountain, in one of the fiercest conflicts of the war, but recovered and later lost an arm by the premature discharge of a cannon at a soldiers' reunion. His comrades, recognizing his faithfulness, made him commander of Dunham Post, No. 41, G. A. R., which office he held at the time of his death, May 25, 1903. He was for sixteen years city ticket agent of the Illinois Central Railroad and also of the Vandalia line when summoned by the call which every soldier regardless of whether he belongs to the rank or file must at last heed. His widow still survives and makes her home at Decatur.

Montford E. Peniwell received his education in the public schools of Decatur, but a wide experience with men and affairs has contributed in no small degree in rounding out the education for which the public schools gave only the foundation. He assisted his father in the railroad ticket office, but later learned the trade of sign, fresco and house painting, which he followed for nine years. Having a natural desire to see the world, he attached himself to the theatrical business and as a musician traveled for five years with various companies, among them Forepaugh's circus, Buffalo Bill's Wild West show and various dramatic organizations. He gained valuable experience in extended trips throughout the east and west, which have been of practical benefit in his later career. Being a man of good habits, he did not yield to the temptations that overcome many young men when separated from home and its attachments.

Having seen the world in many phases, the home instinct drew him to settle permanently among old friends and amidst the familiar scenes of his boyhood. His affable manners gained friends, who advised a political career. To this he acceded and was elected city treasurer, serving a term of two years. He was then elected city clerk and occupied the office for two terms—a period of four years. He served as deputy county treasurer under E. R. Moffett for four years and in November, 1906, was elected county clerk of Macon county for a term of four years. In all his official career he has retained the confidence of the public and is recognized throughout the county as one of its most trustworthy citizens. His social qualities have endeared him to a wide circle, both in secret societies and outside of them. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Elks, Eagles, Modern Woodmen of America, White Cross Society and the Musicians Union.

On the 27th of September, 1894, Mr. Peniwell was united in marriage to Miss Lucille Weisner, of Decatur. Three children have blessed the union: Robert O., Leota Irene and Zelma Lucille. As indicated above, Mr. Peniwell is a self-made man. He owes his present position of respect and influence to

sound principles of life, early inculcated by parents who recognized the importance of a right start in life. The honors and emoluments that have accrued to him he has earned, and it may truthfully be said that in his earthly possessions there are no dishonest dollars. The future of any man who has lived forty-five years "on the square" is assured and one of the greatest needs of the country today is public officials of unblemished record and unspotted integrity.

JAMES H. RECORD.

James H. Record is identified with the farming interests of Macon county, cultivating a part of the Samuel Powers estate of five hundred acres, which he rents. He was born in Pendleton county, Kentucky, in June, 1841, and is a son of William S. and Susanna (Said) Record. His paternal grandfather, John Record, was one of the early settlers of Kentucky. The family is of English lineage and the name was originally spelled Records. The first Record who crossed the Atlantic to the new world settled in New Jersey. William S. Record, the father of James H. Record, was born in Kentucky and removed from there to Illinois in 1857. Various representatives of the name have become prominent in different localities in which they have lived, including Dr. Record, of Kansas City.

In his youthful days James H. Record attended school in Kentucky, where he resided to the age of sixteen years, when he came to Illinois, taking up his abode in Coles county in 1857. There he worked as a farm hand and his diligence and industry made it easy for him to obtain paying positions. He was thus employed until after the outbreak of the Civil war, when his patriotic spirit was aroused and he offered his services to the government, enlisting as a member of Company C of the Fifty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry under Captain Monroe. On the expiration of his first term he reenlisted under Captain M. W. Robbins and was honorably discharged at Little Rock, Arkansas, after a service of four years, during which period he participated in many of the important and hotly contested battles that led up to the final victory which crowned the Union forces. He never faltered in the face of danger nor hesitated to discharge any duty that devolved upon him and with a most creditable military record he returned to the north and again become identified with farming interests in Illinois.

On February 21, 1867, Mr. Record was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Swope, and unto them have been born four daughters and three sons: Nellie, a trained nurse, who is a graduate of the Lincoln Hospital of Chicago; Carrie, who was formerly a school teacher but is now deceased; Grace, the wife of George Flint and the mother of three children, Frances M., Clarence R. and J. Kenneth; Clarence C., who died at the age of nine years; John, a graduate of the schools of Lincoln, Illinois, and now aiding his father in the operation of the farm, where he lives with his wife, who was formerly Margaret Diamond, and their children, Grace and James A.; Charles, a graduate of the James Millikin University of Decatur and of the Union Theological College of New York city, who

is now a Presbyterian minister in New York state, and married to Ida Diller of Decatur; and Pearl, who is at home with her parents.

Mr. Record has been a resident of Macon county since 1878 and since 1890 has occupied the farm upon which he now lives. He has leased a portion of the Samuel Powers estate of five hundred acres and is busily engaged in the cultivation of the fields, his practical methods in tilling the soil and caring for the crops bringing to him substantial returns in large harvests. He is deeply interested in politics and ever keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day. His political allegiance is given to th erepublican party and he has served as chairman of the board of supervisors and as assessor for two years. His religious faith is that of the Cumberland Presbyterian church. He also belongs to the Knights of Pythias fraternity and is past commander of the Dunham Post, No. 141, Grand Army of the Republic, his membership in the latter organization enabling him to maintain pleasant relations with his old army comrades. He is as true and loyal in matters of citizenship today as when he followed the old flag where rung the cry of battle and was heard the cannon's roar. His wife is a member of the Woman's Relief Corps.

FRANK J. MITTAN, M. D.

Thorough professional training in this country and Europe well equipped Dr. Frank J. Mittan for the duties which now devolve upon him as a general practitioner of Decatur. He is one of the native sons of Illinois, his birth having occurred in De Witt, on the 13th of April, 1865. His parents were George H. and Eliza M. (Erwin) Mittan.

Entering the public schools at the usual age Dr. Mittan passed through consecutive grades until he became a high-school student at Farmer City, Illinois. His professional training was received in Rush Medical College at Chicago, from which he was graduated with the class of 1891. In the meantime, however, he was engaged in teaching school for four years, but he regarded this merely as an initial step to other professional labor and when opportunity offered began preparing for the practice of medicine. Following his graduation he spent ten years in practice in Colfax, during which time his constantly broadening experience qualified him in large measure for the responsible duties that are now devolving upon him. He came to Decatur in 1903, after a year spent in professional work in Europe, during which time he attended some of the leading clinics of the old world and observed the methods of practice of some of the most renowned physicians and surgeons of Europe. He is doing excellent work in Decatur and has been accorded a liberal practice, which is indicative of the skill and ability which he has displayed in the performance of his daily professional duties. His office is splendidly equipped with electricity, sterilizers and all modern appliances which produce immediate and permanent results, and Dr. Mittan keeps in touch with the most advanced methods of the profession.

On the 24th of November, 1886, Dr. Mittan was married in Bellflower, Illinois, to Miss Emma L. Butcher, and they are cordially received into the social

circles of Decatur. While living in Colfax, Dr. Mittan served as president of the school board for eight years and has always been a stalwart champion of the cause of education. His political allegiance is given the republican party and he keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day, so that he is able to support his position by intelligent argument. Fraternally he is connected with the Masons, in which he has attained the Knights Templar degree. He also belongs to the Knights of Pythias lodge and his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Central Church of Christ. That he is interested in the progress of his profession and wishes to keep in touch with the advancement of the medical fraternity is evidenced in the fact that he is a member of the Decatur Medical Society. Since starting upon his professional career he has made continuous advancement and, actuated by laudable ambition, he is bound to reach a still more creditable and enviable position in the ranks of the medical fraternity.

IRVEN J. HECKEL.

Irven J. Heckel is one of the self-made men of Macon county. Beginning upon a rented farm thirty years ago, he applied himself with much diligence that at the present time he is the owner of a highly improved farm of two hundred acres and is assured of a competence for himself and family; or if he so desires may retire from active labors at any time, knowing that a handsome income is available each year. His success is a striking illustration of the possibilities in America awaiting any man who will labor intelligently, provided he exercises patience and persistence in the earlier stages of his career.

Mr. Heckel was born in Long Creek township, Macon county, January 12, 1859, and is a son of John Joseph and Elizabeth (Hanks) Heckel. The father was a native of Erfurt, Prussia, Germany, born May 4, 1810, and was educated at the celebrated Wittenberg University. He became master of several languages and all his life was a student and thinker. After serving three years in the Prussian army he came to America and settled in Long Creek township, this county, about 1834. He began upon a small tract of raw land, which he brought to a high state of cultivation, and he became one of the successful farmers of the county. The mother of our subject was a second cousin to Abraham Lincoln and a playmate of the president in his early boyhood. She was born in Hardin county, Kentucky, April 23, 1822, and was married May 3, 1840, to Mr. Heckel, who lived to be eighty-two years of age and departed this life on February 6, 1892. The beloved wife and mother was called away four days previously. In their family were eight children who are now living.

Educated in the common schools, the subject of this review assisted in the work of the home farm until 1880, when in connection with his brother, Charles A. Heckel, he rented a farm of one hundred and sixty acres near Oakley, Illinois, which they operated with a marked degree of success for three years. In 1883 Mr. Heckel purchased a tract of fifty-four acres of unimproved land in Long Creek township, which became the nucleus of the beautiful farm of two

MR. AND MRS. IRVEN J. HECKEL

hundred acres which he now owns. This farm is thoroughly tiled and improved with a fine modern residence and with buildings, fences, shade trees and all the accessories seen upon the best farms. Here Mr. Heckel engages in general farming and stock-raising and yearly fattens hogs and cattle for the market.

On October 3, 1893, Mr. Heckel was united in marriage to Miss Emma J. Lichtenberger, of Long Creek township. She is a daughter of C. H. and Elizabeth (Nesbit) Lichtenberger, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Macon county. Three children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Heckel: Vera Elizabeth; Lynn L., who died in infancy; and John J., born June 2, 1899.

Mr. Heckel accepts the principles of the democratic party as those best adapted to enhance the prosperity of the American republic. He is a worthy member of the Modern Woodmen of America and is identified with the Christian church. He has been greatly blessed in a wife of high character, who has always been to him a loving helpmeet and a safe adviser in times of emergency. Together they have traveled the path of life, setting an example well worthy of imitation. Their home is one of the pleasant gathering places, where friends and acquaintances may always be assured of a cordial welcome and where hospitality has found a congenial abode.

STAMEN KEAGY.

While Stamen Keagy was still an active factor in the world's work, he devoted his time and attention to farming, and during the period of his residence in this county lived about two miles west of Harristown. He was born near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Keagy, natives of Germany, although they came from Switzerland to the new world. The family home was established in the Keystone state, and in the public schools there Stamen Keagy pursued his early education. On removing westward, he became a resident of Indiana, and his next removal brought him to Illinois, at which time he located in Monroe county. He was in the county for about five years before his death. He purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land, which he carefully cultivated for some time, then sold. Afterward he started to Kansas to buy land, but his death occurred when he was on the way. Previous to disposing of his interests in Macon county, he had not only been well known as a representative farmer, but also as a leading and extensive stock raiser, making a specialty of that branch of his business, which proved to him a profitable source of income.

Mr. Keagy was married in 1856 to Miss Emily A. Glasgow, a daughter of James and Hester (Baldwin) Glasgow. The father was a native of Kentucky, whence he removed to Indiana and later came to Illinois. In this state he first settled in St. Clair county and afterward went to Monroe county, whence he removed to Macon county, where the family has been represented for many years. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Keagy were born five children. Ophrah is now a retired agriculturist, but is still the owner of one hundred and twenty-five acres of valuable

and productive farming land. His farm is situated about twelve miles south of Decatur near the town of Macon, and the place presents a most attractive appearance, owing to the excellent improvements he has made upon it. He was born in Monroe county, this state, on the 21st of January, 1861, and following the removal of the family to Macon county he pursued his education in the public schools here. When he was seventeen years of age, his guardian purchased a farm of sixty-four acres and upon that tract of land he began business on his own account. Subsequently he sold the property and purchased his present farm, to the development and improvement of which he gives personal supervision, although he leaves the actual work of the fields to others.

He now lives with his mother in Decatur, and is a well known representative of the business interests of the county. Fraternally he is connected with the Masons. Orphia, the second member of the Keagy family, is deceased. Dama is at home. Ida is the wife of J. I. Lebo and has one child, Chester. Ira S. the youngest, wedded Mary Johnson and has one child, Ruel.

Mr. Keagy was a public-spirited citizen, while cooperating in all practical measures for the general good. He served as a member of the school board and the cause of education found in him a warm and helpful friend. In business affairs his judgment was sound, his enterprise unfaltering, and his determination keen, and because of these qualities he won substantial success, enabling him to leave his family in comfortable circumstances.

LEVI T. CROSS.

Among the prosperous farmers and stock raisers of Macon county is Levi T. Cross, whose home is located on section 14, Harristown township, where he is the owner of ninety acres of land which has been highly improved under his management. He first saw the light of day in Christian county, this state, May 3, 1863, and at the present time is forty-seven years of age, being in the prime of a vigorous and useful manhood. He is a son of James W. and Sarah (Hearst) Cross. His father was born in Maryland and went with his parents to Indiana at an early day, where he grew to manhood and was married. The mother of our subject was also a native of Maryland and also accompanied her parents to Indiana. She and her husband subsequently removed to Christian county, Illinois, where he prospered in his farming operations, but finally removed from the farm to Blue Mound, where he died in 1909. His wife departed this life on the home farm in 1893. Their remains lie side by side in Hunter cemetery, Christian county.

Educated in the public schools of Christian county, Levi T. Cross grew to manhood upon the home farm, and there assisted his father until he was twenty-one years of age. Having gained a thorough knowledge of agricultural pursuits, he began farming for himself upon rented land, where he continued with some success for three years. As he was ambitious for more rapid advancement, he removed in 1888 to Decatur, where he was interested in the draying business for fourteen years, and through good management he acquired the means by

which he purchased the farm upon which he now lives, paying eighty dollars per acre. He has made a number of improvements which have greatly enhanced the value of the property, and it is now worth two hundred and twenty-five dollars an acre. The farm has an air of neatness and thrift that is a good index of the character of its owner.

At Decatur, October 15, 1884, Mr. Cross was united in marriage to Miss Rosa Heckwine, who was born and reared in Christian county. Her parents, John and Sophronia (Fischer) Heckwine were natives of Germany and Switzerland, respectively. The mother came to America when she was twenty years of age, and the father after he had arrived at full maturity. They became acquainted in this state and were married at Chicago, taking up their residence later near Mount Auburn, Christian county. Mr. Heckwine was called away when the daughter was quite young, and she grew up under the loving care of her mother. Two sons have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Cross. Orville L. who was born in Christian county, August 6, 1885, was graduated from the Decatur high school in 1902, and is now acting as foreman of the field force of the Decatur Herald. Rolla C., who was born in Decatur, September 25, 1888, is living with his parents.

Mr. Cross is a man of much experience and is the happy possessor of firmness, sagacity and foresight, which traits have contributed in an important degree to his success in life. He is a democrat, although he has not devoted much time to public life, his attention being mainly given to his own affairs. His wife is a member of the Christian church at Decatur, and Mr. Cross holds membership in Celestial Lodge No. 186, I. O. O. F., and also in Camp No. 1626, M. W. A., both located at Decatur. He also contributes to the support of enterprises calculated to benefit the community and possesses those qualities of character that are most essential to good citizenship.

GEORGE JOHNSTON.

George Johnston, who owns and occupies a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Austin township, is one of the worthy citizens that Scotland has furnished to Macon county, and in his life he exemplifies many of the sterling traits of the Scotch race, especially their industry and integrity. His birth occurred in town of Dumfries, March 18, 1846, his parents being James and Mary (Rodgerson) Johnston, who were natives of the same locality. They had a family of eight children, namely: James, Janet, John, George, Elizabeth, William, David and Thomas. It was in the year 1851 that James Johnston came to the United States, landing at New Orleans, whence he made his way by the Mississippi and Ohio rivers to Alton, Illinois, and thence continued his journey to Springfield, making settlement east of that city. He worked on the old state house at Springfield. He was a man of excellent character and industrious habits but was not long permitted to enjoy his new home, for death occurred in August, 1853. His wife survived him for a number of years and passed away

in 1871. She was a woman of very fine character and was universally respected and esteemed by all who knew her.

George Johnston began his education in the schools of Scotland, which he attended for about two years. He was quite young, however, when he accompanied his parents on their emigration to the new world, so that his mental training was largely received in the public schools of Sangamon county, Illinois. He afterward took up the profession of teaching, which he followed successfully for a few years, proving most capable in imparting clearly and readily to others the knowledge that he had acquired. Throughout the period of his boyhood and youth he worked upon the farm when not busy with the duties of the schoolroom, and at the age of twenty-four years he started out in life on his own account, purchasing a farm of one hundred and sixty acres about four and a half miles northeast of Latham, on which he now resides. It has been his home continuously for forty years and its fine appearance is the visible evidence of his life of well directed thrift and enterprise.

On the 20th of January, 1870, Mr. Johnston was united in marriage to Miss Jane Wright, a daughter of John and Nellie Wright, who were early settlers of Sangamon county. Mrs. Johnston was born June 21, 1844, and her death occurred in 1895. She held membership in the Presbyterian church and lived a consistent Christian life, being universally respected. When death claimed her she was laid to rest in Mount Pulaski cemetery. By her marriage there were three children. Robert Edward, the eldest, completed his education in the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso and is now engaged in operating the home farm. He married Mussetta Cheek and unto them were born three children, George, Harry and Jane. Mary E. is the wife of Benjamin Barry and has three children, Bessie, Robert and Helen. Mrs. Barry also completed her education at Valparaiso, Indiana. Walter, the youngest of the family, died in early childhood and was laid to rest in the Mount Pulaski cemetery.

During the early years of his residence in Macon county Mr. Johnston engaged in raising and selling horses and cattle and was very successful in the business until the widespread financial panic of 1893 left but little market for stock. He then discontinued business in that line and again began raising grain. Later he turned his attention to the raising of hogs and has met such success in this business and has studied the question so thoroughly that he is considered authority on hog-raising in central Illinois. He has written articles upon the subject and made an address at the Farmers Institute of Macon county, which was very favorably commented upon by the press. He prepared an article on soil fertility which was widely read and which awakened the deep interest of all who read it.

The stimulus that he has given to agricultural development and the influence that he had had in causing farmers to hold to high ideals have not comprised the extent of his important service to the public. He has filled township and county offices and has always been greatly interested in the cause of education, being at different times officially connected with the schools. He was supervisor of his township for three and a half years and has filled the offices of township clerk and school trustee. He was also special drainage commissioner and he did excellent work in that connection, his labors being far-reaching and bene-

ficial. He was likewise one of the directors of a fraternal insurance organization. He has labored for the cause of temperance and has been a member of the county executive committee on local option. He belongs to the Presbyterian church and is prominent in church work. Mr. Johnston served as township president of the Sunday School Association of Macon county for thirty years and is now a member of the executive committee of the Sunday School Association of this county. In cooperation with others he has done very good work toward organizing the Sunday schools and training the young people for the recognition of their moral responsibilities.

Like other sons of Scotland, Mr. Johnston is a lover of Burns. He was born near the last resting place of the great Scotch poet and has a Scotchman's pride and reverence for the memory of the sweet singer of Bonnie Scotland. Each year he joins with other Scotchmen of central Illinois in celebrating the anniversary of the poet's birth and one one such occasion he contributed the following poem as his part of the program:

In seventeen hundred fifty-nine
Was born a child in Scotia's line,
Between clay walls, 'neath a thatched roof,
Who lived to give the world full proof

That not in titles, not in rank
And not in wealth like London bank
Was his power to move mankind—
This lay in his poetic mind.

In childhood, youth, and manhood's pride
Though he was poor and sorely tried,
That could not quench the inward fire—
He was born, he knew, to tune the lyre.

While fated to a life of toil
He truly loved his native soil.
His country now that love returns—
Her dearest name is Robert Burns.

In Scotland he is loved and famed,
And now by all the world acclaimed
The first and best in lyric art,
The poet of the human heart.

Other bards have stirred the mind,
But none lie in the heart enshrined,
None regard and love have won
Like Caledonia's gifted son.

Among the immortals is his name,
Sure and undying is his fame.

None now to doubt, none now dare frown—
The world is filled with his renown.

O Robert Burns, O Robert Burns!
Long as the earth diurnal turns
Never among the sons of men
Shall there be seen your like again.

JOHN MOONEY.

John Mooney, the owner of a well improved farm on section 26, Niantic township, Macon county, was born just across the road from where he now lives March 21, 1873, and is a son of Hugh and Margaret (Reed) Mooney. The father was born in County Armagh, Ireland, very late in the '20s or early in the '30s and was a son of Francis and Catharine (Graham) Mooney. He received a limited common-school education and while a young man went to Scotland, where he followed mining and where he married Margaret Reed. About 1857, desiring to seek more favorable opportunities, he left his family temporarily in Scotland and came to America and worked for a time on a farm in Sangamon county, Illinois. In 1860 he began to rent land in Macon county and the same year sent for his family, which then consisted of a wife and one daughter. He continued to rent land until he purchased the farm where his daughter now lives, making his home there for the remainder of his life. He was called away March 7, 1882.

There were seven children in his family: Agnes, who married Thomas Moore and lives in Niantic township; Francis, who married Jennie Corcoran and is now engaged in the real-estate business at Decatur; Catharine, who married Hugh Moore and is now deceased, having left one child; Jennie, who lives on the old homestead and owns one hundred acres of it; Margaret, who married Tisdale H. Murphy, of Farmersville, Montgomery county, Illinois, and has ten children; John, our subject; and Matthew, who is married and lives in Niantic. The father was a supporter of the democratic party during his entire life after settling in Illinois. He was reared in the Catholic church, but his wife was a Scotch Presbyterian. He was a man of unusual energy and will power—one who could have made his way anywhere—and he succeeded in finding a home in a strange land, leaving to his children a competence and also what is of more value, a good character.

John Mooney was educated in the common schools and at eighteen years of age went to Springfield, where he took a course in the Springfield Business College. The father being called away when our subject was about nine years of age, he continued with his mother until after reaching his majority. Having inherited one-seventh of the family estate, he now cultivates eighty acres, which under his charge has become highly productive and is one of the most valuable farms of this size in that part of the county.

On the 25th of October, 1899, Mr. Mooney was united in marriage at Illiopolis to Miss Mary Stapleton, who was born on a farm in Logan county, Illinois, a daughter of William and Henrietta (Ryan) Stapleton. Her father was born in Tipperary, Ireland, and came to America with his brother after arriving at manhood. Her mother was also born in Tipperary and came to this country with her brother. They were married in Logan county, this state, and Mrs. Stapleton now lives with her youngest daughter in Illiopolis, her husband having been called away in 1904. There are three children in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Mooney: Gertrude Marie, Margaret Sylveria, and Catharine Eleanor.

Mr. Mooney is a supporter of the candidates and principles of the democratic party and since early childhood has been identified with the Catholic church. He has always been accustomed to work and has attempted to perform his part in every undertaking with which he has been identified. He is a capable and thorough farmer and the ample harvests gathered on his farm each year are evidences of his skill. He is greatly respected by his neighbors and has many friends whom he has attracted by worthy qualities of mind and heart.

FRED E. SCHROEDER.

The life work of Fred E. Schroeder is closely interwoven with the history of Warrensburg, where he is now well known as a leading merchant and also as the village president, in which connection he is controlling officially the interests of the town. In all that he does he is actuated by a spirit of devotion to the general good and is proving a most capable officer. Moreover, he is half owner in a hardware, furniture, harness, plumbing and heating establishment conducted under the name of W. R. & F. E. Schroeder. He was born in Warrensburg on the 5th of April, 1875, and is a son of M. R. and Marie (Haegley) Schroeder. The father was a native of Germany but when a young man bade adieu to the fatherland and sailed for the new world. He had been liberally educated in that country and had also learned the harness maker's trade in Germany. On coming to America he settled first in Massachusetts and afterward removed to Madison, Wisconsin, whence he came to Warrensburg in 1872, the year in which the railroad was built through. His wife was also a native of Germany.

Fred E. Schroeder acquired his education in the public schools of Warrensburg and afterward worked upon a stock ranch in Illini township. This was his initial business experience. Later he began clerking in a general mercantile store, where he remained for four years, when he embarked in business on his own account, joining his brother, R. H. Schroeder, in 1896 in the conduct of a hardware store. They secured but a limited stock of goods and began business on a very small scale. Fred E. Schroeder bought out his brother's interest three years later and after profitably conducting the store for a time suffered heavy losses through fire. It was subsequent to this time that he admitted his brother, W. R. Schroeder, to a partnership. The latter was engaged in the harness business and the stocks of harness and hardware were combined. From that time the trade has steadily increased and they have enlarged their stock to meet the

growing demands of the business until they now have the largest enterprise of this kind in the county outside of Decatur. Their business methods are thoroughly reliable and their enterprising spirit prompts them to keep in touch with the latest productions of manufacturers, so that their stock is always thoroughly modern and up-to-date.

On the 2d of June, 1897, Mr. Schroeder was united in marriage to Miss Flora Minson and unto them have been born four children: Ralph, Ruth, Mildred and Harry. In his political views Mr. Schroeder has always been a stalwart republican and for seven years filled the office of postmaster. He was very prompt in the distribution and collection of mails and in the discharge of all other important duties in connection with the position. Fraternally he is connected with the Woodmen and with the Masons and Odd Fellows, while his religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. His entire life has been spent in Warrensburg, so that he has a wide acquaintance here, while his many substantial qualities have gained for him the high regard of all with whom he has been brought in contact. The growth of his business has resulted from close application, unfaltering enterprise and determination. His official record, too, is in all ways creditable and commendable and has been characterized by the accomplishment of many needed results.

CHARLES Y. MILLER.

Charles Y. Miller, a well known and prosperous agriculturist of Maroa township, is the owner of about two hundred acres of valuable land in Illinois and in connection with the tilling of the soil is also extensively engaged in the feeding and shipping stock. His birth occurred in Dewitt county, Illinois, on the 9th of February, 1867, his parents being Benjamin and Martha (Pulliam) Miller. The father was born in Morgan county, Illinois, on the 27th of December, 1830, while the mother's birth occurred in Spencer county, Kentucky, on the 26th of January, 1843. Benjamin Miller was still but an infant when taken by his parents to Dewitt county, where he spent his entire life, successfully following the occupation of farming. He passed away on the 11th of March, 1889, and at the time of his demise owned more than twelve hundred acres of land. His political allegiance was given to the democracy and for one term he served as supervisor. On the 28th of December, 1865, at Atlanta, Illinois, he wedded Miss Martha Pulliam, a daughter of Gideon and Mary Jane (Goff) Pulliam, who spent their entire lives in Kentucky. The mother died when her daughter Martha was but fourteen years of age, while the father passed away in 1850. Mr. Miller of this review is the eldest in a family of four children, the others being as follows. Mary whose demise occurred in November, 1905. first gave her hand in marriage to David Barcley and afterward became the wife of F. S. Meade. She had two children, Martha and Helen Barcley. Elizabeth, who is the wife of W. C. White, resides in Memphis, Tennessee, and has one child, Marian. Benjamin S., a resident of Clinton, wedded Miss Minnie Hoffman, by whom he has one child, Donald. The mother of the foregoing children was called to her final rest in October, 1906.

C. Y. MILLER

Charles Y. Miller attended the schools of his native county in the acquirement of an education and remained under the parental roof until twenty-one years of age, assisting his father in the work of the home farm. On attaining his majority he was married and began farming independently, operating and managing the old homestead place until about February, 1907. At that time he took up his abode on the farm where he now resides—on the outskirts of Maroa, Macon county. He owns about two hundred acres of land in Illinois and in addition to his farming interests feeds and ships stock on an extensive scale, both branches of his business proving a source of gratifying remuneration to him. He also owns some property at Twin Falls, Idaho.

On the 30th of September, 1888, Mr. Miller was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Hoffman, a daughter of John and Adelina (Lorious) Hoffman, who were natives of Germany and France respectively. They came to the United States with their respective parents in early life, settled in Illinois and were here married. Their children were six in number, namely: Nicholas; Charles, who is deceased; Mrs. Miller; John and Kate, both of whom have passed away; and one who died in infancy. Unto our subject and his wife have likewise been born six children, as follows: Mary, born October 9, 1889, who is the wife of Roy O. Bennett, of Macon county; John H., whose natal day was January 19, 1891; Charles, whose birth occurred on the 14th of November, 1892; William J., who first opened his eyes to the light of day on the 13th of March, 1895; Adelia May, who was born September 16, 1896; and Franklin B., whose birth occurred March 31, 1898.

Mr. Miller is a stalwart democrat in politics and is now ably serving in the capacity of supervisor of Maroa township. In Masonry he has attained high rank, belonging to the commandery at Clinton and the shrine at Peoria. He is likewise identified with the Knights of Pythias at Maroa and in religious faith is a Presbyterian. He has spent his entire life in this part of the state and enjoys an extensive and favorable acquaintance here.

CAPTAIN ISAAC NEWTON MARTIN.

Captain Isaac Newton Martin, a retired contractor of Decatur, is now hale and hearty at the age of seventy-nine years. He was born in the town of Norton, Delaware county, Ohio, February 18, 1831. His father, James H. Martin, was a carpenter and millwright who was born in the Buckeye state and died in Decatur in 1850. He wedded Catherine Hess, who was a native of Ohio and died in Decatur in 1882, having long survived her husband. On the paternal side Captain Martin comes of Scotch ancestry. His parents had a family of thirteen children and at the death of the mother six of the number were living. Those now residents of Decatur are: Mrs. Susan Schaeffer, the wife of Jacob G. Schaeffer, living on West Decatur street; and Isaac N., of this review.

Captain Martin, whose name introduces this record, had but meager educational advantages, attending the old-time subscription school for but one term. Otherwise he is self-educated but in the school of experience has learned many

valuable lessons, becoming in time a good business man of practical ideas and progressive views. At the age of twelve years he began learning the carpenter's trade, serving a three years' apprenticeship, after which he worked as a journeyman until 1855 or for a year subsequent to his arrival in Decatur. He came to Macon county in 1854, reaching his destination on the 3d of May as a passenger one one of the trains of the Central Railroad. His route was from Ohio to Indiana and he traveled some distance by canal boat until he reached Logansport. From that point he continued his journey by stage and railroad to his destination. After working as a journeyman for a year he began contracting and building on his own account in 1856 and, soon demonstrating his ability, was accorded a liberal patronage. He built the bridges for the Peoria, Decatur & Evansville Railroad, also a number of elevators, the Pugh street school, the Warner street school and numerous other buildings and private residences in Decatur and the surrounding country. For many years he was numbered among the foremost contractors of the city and conducted an extensive business, employing a number of workmen. He continued in active connection with building operations until 1898, when he retired.

At the time of the Civil war Captain Martin, with patriotic ardor, had espoused the Union cause, enlisting in April, 1861, for three months' service. He became a first lieutenant of the Eighth Illinois Infantry under Colonel, afterward Governor, Richard Oglesby. On the 6th of August, 1862, he reenlisted for three years' service, becoming a private of Company 1, One Hundred and Sixteenth Volunteer Infantry, but serving as lieutenant and later as captain under Colonel N. W. Tuper. He participated in the battles of Arkansas Post, the siege of Vicksburg, the battle of Jackson, Mississippi, all of the engagements of the Atlanta campaign and was afterward with Sherman on the celebrated march to the sea. He was honorably discharged June 9, 1865, at Washington, D. C., and was mustered out at Springfield, Illinois, with the rank of captain on the 29th of the same month. His military record was most creditable, for in times of danger he inspired and encouraged his men by his own heroism and coolness. After the war he became a member of Post No. 1, which was the first post organized and later reorganized as Durham Post, No. 141, G. A. R., and in 1896 he served as its commander. He is also a life member of Decatur Lodge, No. 65, I. O. O. F., which presented him with a gold medal, known as the half century badge, in recognition of fifty years' honorable connection wtih the order.

On the 1st of November, 1855, Captain Martin was married to Miss Mary E. Harrell, who was then in her sixteenth year. Her parents were Orlando and Elizabeth Harrell, her mother being the landlady of the old Harrell House that stood on the site of the St. Nicholas Hotel and was for years the principal hostelry of Decatur. Unto Captain and Mrs. Martin were born twelve children, of whom three died in infancy. The others are: Oscar F., a resident of Corpus Christi, Texas; Landy H., deceased; James H., a dealer in leather and shoe findings at Minneapolis, Minnesota; Isaac Newton, a dry-goods merchant of Peoria; Willis S., a painter of Decatur; Elizabeth, the wife of W. A. Brown, assistant superintendent for the Standard Oil Company of Decatur; Nora, the wife of Ross Ewing, of Peoria, Illinois; Hattie, the wife of Dr. O. E. Norman, a physician of Minneapolis; and Jessie, the wife of William Munca. Only one death occurred

to break the family circle in twenty-six years. There are now twenty-two grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

On the 1st of November, 1905, Captain and Mrs. Martin celebrated their golden wedding, on which occasion all of their children were present with the exception or Oscar F., who was represented by his son-in-law, Sterling Sorrel. The children presented the parents with a fine bedroom set. There were present on that occasion a number of the grandchildren and also four of the great-grandchildren, these being the children of Mr. and Mrs. Ollie Murrt and Mr. and Mrs. John Ellis. There are few indeed who live to celebrate their golden wedding and Captain and Mrs. Martin have been particularly favored in this respect. They are still honored residents of Decatur and no history of the city would be complete without mention of them. While Captain Martin is now living retired, he yet enjoys remarkably good health and is splendidly preserved for one who has traveled so far on life's journey.

DAN W. TAIT.

Dan W. Tait is well known in the business circles of Decatur, where he has been closely associated with manufacturing and industrial interests. He now has the central Illinois agency for the Olds gasoline engines and also conducts a modern machine shop for engine and automobile repairs. A native son of Macon county, Mr. Tait was born in Decatur township, August 22, 1873, and is the eldest son of Joseph S. and Martha E. (Dillehunt) Tait. The father was born in Decatur, March 28, 1843, and traces his ancestry back to Ireland, whence representatives of the name made their way to the United States, settling in Beaver county, Pennsylvania. It was on the 24th of January, 1871, that Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Tait were married and to provide for his family he carried on general agricultural pursuits in which he met with substantial success, becoming in time the owner of seven hundred and forty acres of valuable land, which now constitutes the property of his estate. Having acquired a handsome capital, he retired in 1890 and spent his remaining days in the enjoyment of well earned rest until called to his final home on the 19th of April, 1909. His widow is a daughter of Benjamin and Martha Dillehunt, early settlers of Decatur and natives of Maryland and Pennsylvania, respectively. The father was born at Hagerstown, Maryland, March 17, 1818, and died September 23, 1869. He was for many years a lumber merchant of this city and also carried on a contracting business, in which connection he became the builder of the courthouses in Clinton and in Urbana, Illinois. His parents were James D. and Susan (Spangler) Dillehunt, who took up their abode in Decatur at a very early period in its development and remained here for seven years.

Dan W. Tait was one of a family of four children, but the eldest, a daughter, died in infancy. The other members of the family are: Benjamin F., now a practicing attorney of Chicago; and Susan, now Mrs. E. Childs, of Springfield, Illinois. The mother, who was born January 28, 1841, is still living, having made her home in Decatur since 1890.

In the public schools of Decatur Dan W. Tait acquired his preliminary education, which was supplemented by study in the State University at Champaign, Illinois, and in Brown's Business College of Decatur. He entered business circles as an employe in the machine shop of the F. B. Tait Manufacturing Company, of which his uncle was senior partner, and after several years' experience with that house, during which period he gained broad knowledge of the business in various phases, he went upon the road as an expert on farm machinery and later as salesman of farm machinery and gas engines. He thus traveled until called back to Decatur to take charge of the office as manager of the retail and jobbing business, which position he filled continuously for ten years. He started out for himself in an independent business venture in 1897, establishing the central Illinois agency for the Olds gasoline engines and accessories, together with a modern machine shop for engines and automobile repairs. He likewise engages in the sale of fine vehicles and driving harness and from the outset the business has constantly grown in volume and importance. As agent for the Olds gasoline engines his sales extend throughout the state and he manages various sub-agencies.

On the 17th of September, 1901, Mr. Tait was married to Miss Margaret E. Wallace, of Decatur, a daughter of A. J. and Elizabeth (Leeper) Wallace, formerly of Heyworth, Illinois. Her father was interested in various lines of business including wholesale and retail stationery. Mrs. Tait is a graduate of the Normal School at Normal, Illinois, and a private school of Chicago, and for four years prior to her marriage engaged in teaching. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Tait have been born a daughter and son: Elizabeth, born in February, 1907; and Wallace, on the 29th of August, 1908.

The parents hold membership in the Presbyterian church and Mr. Tait belongs to Macon Lodge, No. 8 A. F. & A. M.; Macon Chapter No. 21 R. A. M.; and Beaumanoir Commandery No. 29 K. T. In politics he is independent casting his ballot as his judgment dictates without regard to party ties. He is both progressive and industrious and to these qualities may be attributed his success.

EDWARD R. MOFFETT.

Edward R. Moffett, now filling the position of chief deputy in the county treasurer's office at Decatur, is one of Macon county's native sons and his record of public service is creditable to the community in which he has always lived. He was born October 11, 1859, his parents being William T. and Helen L. (Barrows) Moffett, natives of Illinois and of Vermont, respectively. The father came to Macon county at an early period in its development and settled in Blue Mound township upon land which his father, John B. Moffett, had entered from the government at an early age. The tract upon which he took up his abode was entirely wild and unimproved, but with characteristic energy he began its development, transforming the wild land into richly cultivated fields. He continued to make his home thereon until his death, which occurred in 1863. Two

of his sons, David S. and Joseph E. Moffett, were soldiers of the Civil war, the former serving with the rank of lieutenant.

William T. Moffett also enlisted but on account of the illness of his father was not enrolled at that time. Later he raised a company and was elected captain. This company was organized to keep in subjection the residents of the north who were southern sympathizers and who were known as "copperheads." After the county adopted its township organization William T. Moffett became the second supervisor of Blue Mound township and held that office for a number of years. He was also a member of the Illinois house of representatives for two terms, serving in the legislature that passed the first laws after the adoption of the present constitution. He continued as a member of the general assembly from 1870 until 1874, and in 1876 he was elected a member of the state board of equalization. He had served for two years of his four years' term when, in 1878, he resigned, having been elected a member of the state senate, representing his district in the upper house of the general assembly for four years. Every vital question which came up for settlement received his earnest consideration and he sought ever the welfare of the people at large rather than party preferment. Later he was twice called to the office of supervisor. He died in the year 1901, and his widow now lives in Decatur. They were the parents of three sons and three daughters: Edward R.; John B.; William D.; Leonora A., the wife of E. P. Hall, of Mechanicsburg; Mary H., the wife of E. W. Allen, of Harristown, Illinois; and Elizabeth A., the wife of W. N. Rugh, of Argenta, Illinois.

As a pupil of the public school Edward R. Moffett mastered the elementary branches of learning and later attended the Lincoln University for two years. He also pursued a course at the Northern Indiana Normal College at Valparaiso and then gave his undivided attention to farming until 1901. He held the office of township supervisor for two terms, was town clerk for three years, assessor for one term and commissioner of public highways for three terms. His re-elections to these different offices indicated the faithfulness and capability with which he discharged the duties and the confidence reposed in him by his fellow townsmen. He filled the position of school trustee for twelve years and was school director for six years, and has ever been a stalwart champion of the cause of public education. In 1902 he was elected county treasurer of Macon county and served for a term, which expired in 1906. Since that time he has served as chief deputy clerk under M. E. Peniwell, who had acted as deputy under Mr. Moffett. The latter has been an active factor in local political circles from the age of twenty-one years to the present time and has held some office continuously since. As was his father before him, he is one of the best known men of the county and enjoys in unqualified measure the confidence and goodwill of all.

On the 27th of September, 1882, Mr. Moffett was united in marriage to Miss Juliette A. Warnick, of Macon county, and unto them have been born seven children: William T., of Marshfield, Oregon; Ira G., operating the old homestead; John B., of Decatur; and Helen L., Edward R., Josiah Warnick and Willis G., at home. Mrs. Moffett's grandfather, William Warnick, was the first sheriff of Macon county and at his own home frequently entertained Abraham

Lincoln, who was then practicing law, Mr. Warnick having the only law books in the county. Under the old law he also administered a whipping to two horse thieves, which is probably the only horse-whipping that was ever officially done in this county.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Moffett were members of the Presbyterian church. He is loyal to the teachings of Masonry, holding membership in Blue Mound Lodge, No. 682, A. F. & A. M.; Blue Mound Chapter, R. A. M.; and Beaumanoir Commandery, K. T. He is also a member of Chevalier Bayard Lodge, K. P. of Decatur. His entire life has been spent in Macon county, and that his record has ever been an honorable and upright one is indicated by the fact that many of his stanchest friends are those who have known him from his boyhood to the present time. He has ever loyally sought the success of the principles in which he believes, and in political circles has been a potent factor in advancing the success of his party.

WILLIAM H. NICHOLSON.

Among the business men of Macon county who have won high standing by years of perseverance and intelligent application, William H. Nicholson occupies an honorable place. For a number of years connected with the banking business, he became identified with other lines, and was one of the successful promoters of the Decatur Southern Traction Railway. He is recognized as highly energetic and efficient in anything he undertakes, and is the possessor of those qualities so essential in making headway against difficulties.

He was born in Macon county, September 10, 1869, and is a son of Jeremiah P. and Catherine (Wallace) Nicholson, the former of whom was born in Kentucky March 10, 1840, and the latter in 1846. His maternal grandfather, Robert Wallace, was a native of South Carolina, born in 1827, and his wife, who is still living at Mt. Zion, Illinois, was born in Virginia, September 6, 1822. Jeremiah P. Nicholson came to Illinois previous to the civil war and served in the Eighth Illinois Volunteers from Decatur. He was in the Army of the West and participated in a number of important engagements, among which was the battle of Shiloh, and he was also present at the siege of Vicksburg. He served with great credit for three years, and after receiving his honorable discharge, returned to Macon county, where he has since lived. He is a strong adherent of the republican party, and was elected as sheriff of the county in 1910, having previously served most creditably as deputy sheriff. He is a man of many fine qualities, and in the course of a long life of usefulness has made many warm friends in Decatur and Macon county. There were seven children in the family: Mina, at home; William H., our subject; Julia, at home; Cass, of Decatur; Robert, now living in Texas; Corydon, of Decatur; and Lester, at home.

The subject of this review received his education in the public schools and high school of Decatur, and also took active career by a course in a business college. In 1889 he became identified with the Millikin Bank and served as bookkeeper for six years. He was then made receiving teller of the bank and

occupied that position for about nine years, becoming thoroughly acquainted with banking operations and gaining a fine reputation among the business men of the community. Desiring to operate independently, he entered the loan and investment business, to which he has since mainly devoted his time. In January, 1910, he assisted in the promotion of the Decatur Southern Traction Railway, on which work has been commenced, the first part of the construction being between Decatur and Pana. In his business career, Mr. Nicholson has shown an ability that gives bright promise for the future. He has steadily forged ahead and has carried everything of importance which he has handled to a successful conclusion.

On October 6, 1891, Mr. Nicholson was united in marriage to Miss Lota H. Cresap, who is a native of Champaign county, this state, born April 12, 1870. She is a daughter of Hamilton Cresap, now deceased, who was a prominent farmer and stock dealer, and with his brother settled upon a large tract of land in Champaign county previous to the civil war. The maiden name of the mother was Theodosia Campbell. Four children have blessed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson: Ruth, Irma, Mildred and William, all of whom are living at home.

Mr. Nicholson has been a lifelong republican, and is a stanch believer in the principles of his party. He holds membership in the Presbyterian church, and is identified with the Masonic order and the Mystic Shrine, accepting earnestly the spirit of brotherhood upon which the order is founded. He has spent his entire life in Macon county, where he is widely known. He has the ability of making and retaining friends, and is ever ready to extend any assistance in his power to advance any movement benefiting the community. The reputation of Mr. Nicholson among those who know him is irreproachable.

JOHN CLARK BATCHELDER.

John Clark Batchelder is a representative of the farming and livestock interests of Macon county, his home being now in Illini township, where he is busily engaged in tilling the soil and raising and feeding stock. He was born in Pittsfield, New Hampshire, and was a grandson of Nathaniel Batchelder, a member of one of the old New England families. His father, Samuel E. Batchelder, was also born in the old Granite state and pursued his education there. When about forty years of age he removed to the west to enjoy the better business opportunities that might be afforded in this section of the country. He died in 1893 and his wife passed away in October of the same year. They were the parents of four children: Mrs. Augusta B. Eaton; Abbie W., who died in 1893; John Clark, of this review; and Mrs. Kate M. Brown.

John C. Batchelder was only about three years of age when his father came with the family to Illinois and purchased a place known as the old Pickerell farm, comprising about one hundred and sixty acres. The son acquired all of his early education in the public schools of the neighborhood and afterward pursued a two years' course in Bloomfield, Iowa. He worked upon the farm throughout all the vacation periods and thus became familiar with the best meth-

ods of tilling the soil and caring for the stock. At length, when he was twenty-seven years of age, he began farming on his own account on a place a few miles north of his present home. He made most of the improvements upon that property and continued to reside there for five years. On the death of his father he took charge of the old homestead, which he has since carefully cultivated, transforming it into one of the fine farms of the district.

On the 22d of February, 1888, Mr. Batchelder was married to Miss Susan L. Harper, a daughter of Lucian Harper, and unto them have been born three children, but Ruth, the eldest, is now deceased. Those still living are Ina L. and Milton, who are preparing for college.

Mr. Batchelder's lodge relations are with the Masons, he being a past master of the lodge of Harristown and a member of Beaumanoir Commandery No. 9, K. T., of Decatur. His political support is given to the republican party, and while he neither seeks nor desires office, he has served as school director and as trustee. In all the relations of life he has made a creditable record. He is diligent in business and therefore deserving of all success, and in matters relating to the public welfare he is interested to the extent of giving hearty co-operation to many movements for the general good. His life has been quietly passed, and yet has been characterized by the many substantial qualities which in every land and clime awaken confidence and respect.

WILLIAM SAWYER.

William Sawyer, who has been successfully engaged in general farming and stock-raising throughout his entire business career, now resides on a tract of three hundred and ninety-six acres on sections 6 and 8. Decatur township, and section 1, Harristown township. His birth occurred in Macon county, Illinois, on the 19th of April, 1841, his parents being John and Eliza (Kettering) Sawyer, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, the former born in 1811. They came to Illinois in the early '30s and took up their abode in Macon county, here continuing to reside throughout the remainder of their lives. John Sawyer followed general agricultural pursuits throughout his active business career and at the time of his demise owned over five hundred acres of valuable land in this county. His political allegiance was given to the democracy, while fraternally he was identified with the Masons, having attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite. He passed away in 1893, when eighty-two years of age, and his death was the occasion of deep and widespread regret, for he had gained an extensive circle of friends during the long period of his residence here. He was twice married and by his first wife had six children, of whom our subject was the third in order of birth. Mrs. Eliza Sawyer was called to her final rest in 1848, at the age of thirty-four years, and for his second wife John Sawyer chose Mrs. Harriet Gulick, by whom he had three children and whose demise occurred in 1891.

William Sawyer obtained his early education in the subscription schools and afterward attended the academy at Mount Zion, Illinois, for one term. After

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM SAWYER

putting aside his text-books he remained on the farm with his father until the time of his marriage, when he established a home of his own. The pursuits of farming and stock-raising have always claimed his attenion and have brought him a gratifying financial return annually. He now resides on a well improved farm of three hundred and ninety-six acres in Decatur and Harristown townships and in its cultivation utilizes the most modern and progressive methods of agriculture.

In 1868 Mr. Sawyer was united in marriage to Miss Virginia Gulick, who was born on the 4th of October, 1851, her parents being John and Mary E. (Brett) Gulick, natives of Virginia. They came to Macon county in 1830 and here spent the remainder of their lives, the father passing away in 1857 and the mother in 1868. Their children were four in number, Mrs. Sawyer being the second in order of birth. Our subject and his wife are parents of five children, as follows: Mary, whose birth occurred November 29, 1869, and who gave her hand in marriage to A. F. Park, of Washington, Iowa; Eliza A., born July 21, 1873, who is the wife of Theodore Hayes and makes her home in Forsyth, this county; Emma O., whose birth occurred March 15, 1880, and who resides in Macon county with her husband, Frederick Hayes, by whom she has two children; William Jr., born January 19, 1882, who wedded Miss Celia Lincoln and lives in this county with his wife and two children; and Elsie L., whose natal day was May 14, 1885, and who resides in this county with her husband, George E. Murray, by whom she has two children.

When national questions and issues are involved Mr. Sawyer supports the democracy but at local elections casts an independent ballot. His wife is a devoted and consistent member of the Methodist church and he likewise attends its services. They have always lived in Macon county and are well known and highly esteemed within its borders, having won the warm friendship and regard of all with whom they have come in contact.

LAWRENCE REIS.

On the list of Macon county's honored dead is found the name of Lawrence Reis, who for many years was prominently and successfully interested in various lines of endeavor in this county. He was one of Germany's contribution to the citizenship of Illinois, his birth occurring in that country August 10, 1849. His parents, Wendle and Frances (Young) Reis, were also natives of the fatherland, where the former was born on the 17th of August, 1816, and the latter on the 20th of June, 1817. They remained residents of their native land until 1858, when they crossed the Atlantic ocean that the father might improve the opportunities here offered for advancement in business lines, and the children of the family benefit by the better advantages offered in educational and other lines. Upon landing in the United States they made their way to Macon county, Illinois, and here their remaining days were passed, the father passing away on the 16th of August, 1898, and the mother March 16, 1899, their remains being interred at Pleasant View cemetery. They had been married in 1841, and unto

their union were born six children, but only one member of the family is now living, Carrie, the widow of William Hurst, who makes her home in Colorado.

A little lad of nine years when he came with his parents to this country, Lawrence Reis completed his education, which had been begun in the schools of Germany, in the country schools near his father's home in Macon county, Illinois. Reared to farm life, he early mastered the tasks that fall to the lot of the country lad, and as his strength and experience increased with the passing of the years he assisted more and more largely in the work of the fields, until he had gained a thorough and comprehensive knowledge of the various branches of agriculture. He remained with his parents on the home farm until attaining man's estate, when he laid the foundation for a happy home life of his own by his marriage, on the 26th of October, 1871, to Miss Elizabeth Botoner, who was born in Washington, D. C., on the 20th of December, 1856. Her parents were Henry and Mary Botoner, natives of Washington, D. C., and of Germany, respectively. The father, whose birth occurred in the national capital, came to Macon county, Illinois, in 1867, and here passed away. While a resident of Washington he had served as a soldier of the civil war. His wife, whose birth occurred in the fatherland, was laid to rest beside her husband in the Waltz cemetery at her death. Their family, consisting of eleven children, is as follows: Sophia, the wife of John Amos, of Peoria; Elizabeth, the wife of Lawrence Reis, of this review; William, who was born April 10, 1860, and passed away May 15, 1908, at the age of forty-eight years; Henry, who resides north of Blue Mound; Minnie, the wife of George Bolt of Colorado; Kate, who wedded Tony Dukes of Colorado; Josephine, who died at the age of nineteen years; Frank, living in Ohio; Mary, the wife of C. Reiset of Ohio; John, making his home in Illinois; and Anna, the wife of Ollie Tills, residing near Macon.

Immediately after his marriage, Mr. Reis went to Decatur, where he was employed in the rolling mills for about a year, after which he removed to Springfield and for a similar period worked in a lumber yard. He then returned to his father's farm in Macon county, which he operated for a while, and then went to the western part of the county where he was engaged in railroad work for some time. Later he returned to agricultural pursuits to which he gave his attention until the time of his death. For a period of sixteen years he had left the actual work of the farm to his sons, while he engaged in operating a huckster wagon, in which connection his efforts proved most successful. His entire life was one of continuous activity, characterized by indefatigable industry, close application and progressive methods, and his labors were therefore resultant factors in the attainment of prosperity which made it possible, at the time of his death, to leave to his family a most comfortable competency. After his demise his wife purchased forty acres of the old Reis estate, and has since been most successful in the management of the business affairs which have devolved upon her. About two years after the death of Mr. Reis the present beautiful residence was erected and here his widow makes her home with a son and daughter. They operate about ten acres of the farm, while the remainder of the place is leased to others.

As the years passed, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Reis was blessed with eight children, of whom one has now passed away. Carrie, the eldest, who was born

in Springfield on the 7th of June, 1872, is the wife of Peter Peterson, and lives in Assumption, Illinois. She has two children, Lewis and Louise. Mary F., born in Macon county, August 9, 1874, wedded William Mounts and also makes her home in Assumption. Of their four children, three are now living: Nellie, Earl, aged seven years, and Edith Mounts, aged five years. The eldest son, Lawrence, who was born November 5, 1895, was accidentally shot while hunting, his death occurring July 19, 1910, at the age of fourteen years. He was laid to rest in the cemetery at Assumption. Winnie, the third in order of birth in the Reis family, born October 18, 1876, in Macon county, Illinois, is married and resides in Hanna, North Dakota. Lewis, whose birth occurred in this county on the 21st of July, 1879, married Miss Emma Moss and resides in Pleasant View township. He has one child, Elsie. Kate, the fifth of the family, was born in Macon county, May 29, 1882, and is the wife of Clarence Cranmer, who resides in Pleasant View township and is mentioned elsewhere in this review. Lulu, born in Macon county on the 18th of November, 1884, resides with her mother. Phoebe, born in the same county November 7, 1892, passed away October 15, 1893, and is buried in the cemetery at Pleasant View. Frank, who completes the family, was born on the 14th of January, 1895, in this county, and makes his home with his mother, assisting in the operation of the home place.

The death of Mr. Reis occurred on the 2d of November, 1901, and interment took place three days later at Pleasant View cemetery. He passed away in the faith of the Catholic church, and throughout his life exemplified the teachings of that denomination. He was a member of the Modern Woodmen camp, and in politics gave stanch support to the principles of the democratic party. Not only did his well directed efforts and good business ability bring him a most substantial degree of prosperity, but his honorable methods and fair dealing awakened the respect and confidence of his fellowmen, and his record was another example of the fact that success and an honored name may be won simultaneously. Mrs. Reis, a lady of broad intelligence and kindly nature, is popular among her many friends and neighbors because of her excellent traits of heart and mind, and enjoys the unqualified regard and esteem of all who know her. She was christened in the Lutheran faith, and although she has not affiliated herself with the church here, has, nevertheless, ever guided her life by the precepts of that denomination, and is an earnest, Christian woman, who has reared her family according to the highest standards of noble manhood and womanhood.

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

John Armstrong, a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic at Decatur and now living retired from active life after many years of usefulness, is a native of the Buckeye state. He was born at Mansfield, March 17, 1838, and is a son of James and Nancy (Hall) Armstrong. When he was quite young his parents removed to Perry, Hocking county, Ohio, where the father, who was a merchant, carried on business, remaining there until his death. When seventeen years of age John Armstrong became apprenticed to a carpenter at

Jacktown, Licking county, Ohio, six miles south of the city of Newark. While serving his apprenticeship he received thirty-five, forty-five and fifty-five dollars and his board for each of three years respectively and after completing the trade he worked for one year under his employer and taught district school for one winter.

Just as he was preparing to take an active part in the peaceful pursuits of life, the country became involved in the great Rebellion and as a patriotic American citizen, he proffered his services in defense of the flag, becoming a member of Company C, Twenty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and in July, 1861, enlisted for three years. The regiment was sent to Camp Chase, Columbus, for two weeks and then to St. Louis and became a part of the Army of the West. Private Armstrong participated in many engagements, being present at the battles of New Madrid, Missouri, and Island No. 10, and later at Corinth, Iuka, Parker's Crossroads, Tuscumbia, Resaca, Dallas, Kenesaw Mountain, Nickajack Creek and Ruff's Mills, receiving a flesh wound in the neck at the latter place. However, he soon recovered from his injury and at Atlanta, July 22, 1864, was again wounded in the neck, the bullet striking a bone at the head of the spinal column. He was left unconscious on the field and after being carried to a temporary hospital the doctors came to the conclusion that no bullet was lodged in the neck of their patient, but sixteen days latter a nurse discovered a foreign substance in the wound and with a pair of shears removed the bullet, which our subject has since retained as an interesting memento of his thrilling experience in the army. He was sent to a hospital near Columbus, Ohio, and after a partial recovery was appointed commissary sergeant and remained there until mustered out of service June 6, 1865. His regiment participated in the grand review at Washington but our subject was not able to be present, being occupied elsewhere. The entire time he served in the army was almost four years.

After retiring from military life Mr. Armstrong visited Hocking county, Ohio, where he was married and soon afterward came to Christian county, Illinois, locating on a farm of eighty acres which he improved, occupying his time in the winter by teaching school at forty dollars per month. After eighteen months he disposed of his farm and moved to Decatur, where he entered the employ of D. C. Shockley and continued for twelve years. Desiring to become independent, he formed a partnership with Lyon & Gibson and started a planing mill now operated by the firm of Lyon & Sons, and for eighteen years Mr. Armstrong was identified with this project, finally closing out his interest and devoting his attention to the duties of superintendent of construction at Decatur. In this capacity he had charge of the building of the Oakland street school, the Anna B. Millikin Home, the new Methodist Episcopal church, an addition to the Decatur high school and many other buildings. He has also engaged in building houses upon his own account and has sold them to good advantage.

On July 13, 1865, Mr. Armstrong was united in marriage to Miss Lucretia Reicheldifer, a native of Hocking county, Ohio, and one son, Harley J., was born to them. He was educated in the ward schools and the high school of Decatur, after which he entered Cornell University at Ithaca, New York, where he graduated in electrical engineering. In the state of Washington he was married to Miss Margaret Casey and is now engaged in the successful practice

of his profession in Portland, Oregon. He is the father of one child, Mary Margaret Armstrong.

Mr. Armstrong was reared a democrat but gives his earnest adherence to the republican party. He served with general acceptance for a year as member of the city council of Decatur and for four years as supervisor of Decatur township. During the latter term of office Fairmount park was acquired by the city and Mr. Armstrong was one of the prominent factors in its purchase. He and his wife are both identified with the Methodist church, of which he is an official member, now serving as trustee. He is prominently connected with the Grand Army of the Republic and has filled the various chairs in the local post and attended a number of the national reunions. He also holds membership in the Masonic fraternity and he and his wife are connected with the Order of the Eastern Star. In the evening of a long and busy life Mr. Armstrong is enjoying a well earned rest. In his early manhood he was a good soldier for the cause of liberty and in the various duties of an active career extending over many years he put into practice the same courage and fidelity that nerved him to face the enemy on the field of battle. No man rejoices more than he over the result of the war and it is no exaggeration to say that to such noble men as he the nation owes its existence today. All patriotic citizens unite in gratitude to the old soldiers and in the wish that they may live long in comfort and prosperity.

CLARENCE CRANMER.

Although numbered among the younger farmers of Pleasant View township, Clarence Cranmer has, nevertheless, not only won for himself a most promising position among the progressive farmers of this locality but has firmly established himself in the regard and esteem of his fellow citizens. A native of Missouri, he was born in Cuba, that state, on the 16th of January, 1881, and is a son of Orin and Desdemona (Mounts) Cranmer. The father was born in Pennsylvania in November, 1855, and the mother in Missouri, in 1856, and they now make their home in Cuba, Missouri. Their family of nine children is yet unbroken by the hand of death, and is as follows: Clarence, of this review; Clyde, residing in Greeley, Colorado; Otto, of Assumption, Illinois; Ralph, of Cuba, Missouri; Walter, who makes his home in Blue Mound; Homer, of White Cloud, Kansas; Roy, living in St. Louis, Missouri; Guy, of Cuba, Missouri; and Lloyd, yet at home.

Clarence Cranmer attained his education in the schools of his native state, and after laying aside his text-books he came to Blue Mound and was here engaged as a farm hand, working by the month, for about five years. On the 22d of June, 1904, he laid the foundation for a happy home life of his own by his marriage to Miss Catherine Reis, who was born in Blue Mound, Illinois, in 1882. She is a daughter of Lawrence and Elizabeth Reis, mention of whom is made on another page of this volume. After their marriage the young couple began their domestic life on the farm which is yet their home. It consists of

one hundred and sixty acres of land which Mr. Cranmer rents from May and Jef Kreidler, and here he is engaged in general farming and stock raising. He practices rotation of crops, has made a careful study of soil and climatic conditions, and is carrying on his agricultural pursuits according to the most modern and approved methods, so that his efforts are producing excellent results.

Interested as all American citizens should be, in the political situation of the country, Mr. Cranmer has thoroughly informed himself concerning the questions and issues of the day and gives stalwart support to the republican party. He takes a deep interest in all matters concerning the public welfare, and is a stanch advocate of all those projects which have for their object the upbuilding and development of the community. He possesses those sterling qualities which go to make up good citizenship and which win and hold the respect and good will of his fellowmen, and his wife occupies a prominent place in the social circles of the community in which they reside. Possessing the ambition and determination to succeed, which is characteristic of young American manhood, Mr. Cranmer is bringing into play in these early years of his career qualities which, if closely followed, are bound to accomplish results, and the degree of prosperity which he has already attained in agricultural lines gives assurance of the success to follow.

ALVAH R. SMITH.

Alvah R. Smith, a well known farmer and stock raiser, who occupies a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 20, Harristown township, Macon county, was born on a farm near Dalton City, Moultrie county, Illinois, December 12, 1877, his parents being William S. and Margaret E. (Bushart) Smith. When he was about seven years of age his father sold his farm in Moultrie county and came to Harristown township, where he bought one hundred and sixty-four acres of land, which he farmed for about twenty years. At the end of that time he traded his farm for the property on section 20, which has since been retained in the family.

Alvah R. Smith was educated in the common schools but being ambitious to advance he began at sixteen years of age to work by the month, hiring out to neighboring farmers. Thus he continued for a number of years; finally after his marriage, settling at his present home, where he has conducted farming on up-to-date principles, making it a good and profitable business.

On February 12, 1901, at Warrensburg, Illinois, Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Miss Sadie Taggart, who was born on a farm near Warrensburg, August 30, 1878, and is a daughter of Harrison Madison and Margaret J. (Hanks) Taggart, now residents of Illini township, this county. It is interesting to note that her maternal grandfather, Joseph Hanks, was a cousin of the mother of Abraham Lincoln. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Smith: Margaret, who died in infancy; Dorothy, born January 15, 1904; Virgil, born December 23, 1905; Ralph, born January 9, 1908; and another who died in infancy.

Mr. Smith has been, since arriving at his majority, a supporter of the republican party, but he has never aspired to political honors, as his interest is centered in agriculture and stock-raising, to which he has devoted his life. By experience and observation he has gained a great deal of practical information which he now applies under most favorable conditions. Although only thirty-three years of age, he has an enviable reputation in the vocation to which he seems thoroughly adapted, and which offers great inducements to those who are properly qualified.

ANDREW J. THRIFT.

Andrew J. Thrift was for a number of years one of the thrifty, enterprising and representative farmers of Macon county, where he resided up to the time of his death, which occurred on the 12th of April, 1888. He had passed the Psalmist's allotted span of three score years and ten, for he was born on the 19th of October, 1815. His birthplace was near Hopkinsville, Christian county, Kentucky, in which locality his parents, Samuel and Sarah Fleming (Cowan) Thrift, owned a farm. The father was born in Fairfax county, Virginia, and was a representative of a very prominent family of the Old Dominion. His father, Charles Thrift, and three brothers came from England in colonial days and established their home in Virginia, where they were living at the time of the outbreak of the war for independence. Charles Thrift enlisted in defense of the American cause, and two of his brothers were killed while serving with the Continental army. Charles Thrift was closely connected with the Washington, Lee and other distinguished families of Virginia. Samuel Thrift was a young boy when his father removed to Kentucky, settling in the locality in which Andrew J. Thrift was born. It was then a frontier district, in which the atrocities of the savages were such as to give to the state the name of the Dark and Bloody Ground. Only a comparatively few settlers had penetrated into this western wilderness and the Thrift family were among those who aided in reclaiming the district for the purposes of civilization. Samuel Thrift was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Fleming Cowan, a descendant of the Stuart family of England, her ancestry being traceable directly to Mary, Queen of Scots.

Andrew J. Thrift began his education in Kentucky. When sixteen years of age he became a resident of Illinois, making his way to St. Clair county, where he aided his father in the development and improvement of their new farm. He completed his education during his spare hours and became a well informed man, adding largely to his knowledge through reading and observation. He was about twenty years of age when he began farming on his own account, renting land until he had saved from his earnings a sufficient sum to enable him to purchase property. He then invested in a farm in the same locality and afterward became the owner of another farm. He improved both and then sold and eventually removed to Macon county, where he again bought land, becoming the owner of four hundred acres of valuable property in Maroa township. His work was always of a most practical and progressive character and his labors

wrought a marked transformation in the appearance of his place, making it one of the best improved farms of the district. He was a man of resolute spirit and unfaltering determination, and carried forward to successful completion whatever he undertook, so that at his death he was able to leave to his family a valuable property.

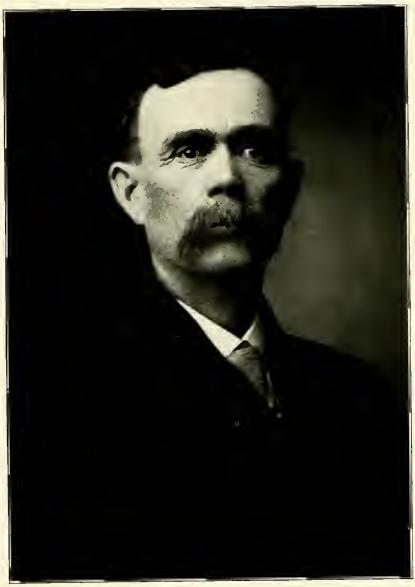
Mr. Thrift was united in marriage to Miss Anna Christina Peter, a daughter of Peter and Elizabeth Christina (Hoffmann) Peter. The father was a native of Germany and came to this country with his wife and their one child. They settled in Carlisle, Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, where he turned his attention to farming, but though he carried on the work of the fields, he lived most of the time in town. In 1839 he removed westward to St. Clair county, Illinois, and Mrs. Thrift acquired her education largely in this state. Her grandmother was of a titled German family, which is still represented in the fatherland. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Thrift were born nine children: Alonzo M., a retired farmer; Charles A., a farmer of this county; Mary L., the wife of Goddin Welden and the mother of two children, Goddina and Margaret; Grace, the wife of Samuel David McKenny and the mother of two children, Torrey and Marjorie; four children who died in infancy; and Douglas A., who died at the age of thirty-two years.

Mr. Thrift continued to devote his attention to his farm and its further development up to the time of his death. He was known as a thorough, reliable and enterprising business man and in citizenship displayed many sterling traits of character. He was public-spirited, was interested in politics, and gave his political allegiance to the democratic party. He was also a member of the Baptist church and his honorable, upright life gained him the confidence and goodwill of all who knew him.

JAMES T. GABRIEL.

The owner of six hundred acres of good farming land in Macon county, James T. Gabriel may be regarded as one of the fortunate citizens of central Illinois. He was born in this county, January 27, 1860, and is a son of Thomas and Jane (Warner) Gabriel. The father was born in Ireland, in 1819. He came to America in 1844 and to Illinois in 1858, settling on the place where the subject of this review now lives. Here he built a home in May, 1858. He was one of the first settlers of the region and rode a horse bareback to Decatur to get a candle for light. He was one of the stanch pioneer men and assisted to the extent of his ability in preparing this region as a desirable place of habitation. After arriving in this country he spent a number of years in New York city and for fourteen years was a clerk in the dry-goods store of A. T. Stewart. He had profound regard for the American republic and was one of the best friends of the old soldiers that Macon county has known.

He departed this life in 1891, after a long and honorable career. The mother was born in County Cork, Ireland, in 1826, and was called from earthly scenes in January, 1910. They are both buried in Bethel cemetery. Five children blessed their union, four of whom are living: Anna, the wife of James M. Lee,



JAMES T. GABRIEL

of Decatur; Eliza J., the wife of John Scaggs, of Blue Mound; James T., our subject; and Dora, the wife of Henry Botoner, of Macon county.

James T. Gabriel received his education in the public schools of Macon county and continued to live upon the home farm, renting land from his father and successfully conducting general farming operations. Here he has made many improvements and his farm is known as one of the most valuable properties in Pleasant View township.

On October 3, 1883, Mr. Gabriel was united in marriage to Miss Ida Putsch, who was born in Montgomery county, Illinois, February 9, 1861, and was a daughter of Frederick and Augusta (Forberg) Putsch. The father was a native of Saxe-Altenburg, Germany, where he was born January 10, 1824. He came to Illinois in 1838 and settled in St. Clair county. 1853 he was married to Augusta Forberg, who departed this life February 15, 1886. Mr. Putsch was a resident of Macon county for twenty-nine years and became one of its prosperous farmers. He was called to his reward November 26, 1903. Mrs. Putsch was born in Germany, in 1827, and died in Macon county in 1887. She and her husband are both buried in Bethel cemetery. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel: Etta, born August 30, 1885, and now Mrs. John Buchter, of Pleasant View township; and Maude, who was born July 16, 1887, and is the wife of Ezra Crow, of Macon county. They have one child, Merle. Mrs. Gabriel having been called away, our object was again married, January 3, 1888, to Miss Clara Putsch, a sister of his first wife. She was born in Blue Mound, township, April 3, 1870. Three children were born to the second marriage of Mr. Gabriel: Stella, April 16, 1891; Oscar, June 30, 1894; and Guy, September 14, 1897.

Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel are members of the Bethel Methodist church, of which he has served as trustee and steward for many years. He is an adherent of the republican party and, being a stanch friend of education, has filled the position of school director in his district with great acceptance to the people. All his life he has been closely identified with the region where he now lives. He is one of its best known residents and no man stands higher in the estimation of the people of the community. He has attained success through the application of perseverance and a good judgment that have seldom failed to accomplish the object which he sought and today he enjoys the results of his well directed endeavors.

CHARLES ROY JOHNSTON, M. D.

Among the physicians and surgeons of Decatur who are doing creditable work in the line of their profession, Charles Roy Johnston is numbered. He is yet a young man, but has built up a practice which many an older physician might well envy. He was born in Washburn, Illinois, July 25, 1881, a son of Charles B. and Ida M. (Eveland) Johnston, both of whom are living at Remington, Indiana, where the father is engaged in the lumber business.

At the usual age, Dr. Johnston entered the public schools and therein pursued his education until he had become a high school student at Washburn, where

he was graduated with the class of 1898. He afterward entered the Southwest Kansas College at Winfield, Kansas, and St. Louis University, at St. Louis, Missouri. In the latter institution he pursued the medical course and received a practical training in the onerous duties of the profession through his services as interne in the St. Louis Female Hospital and in St. Mary's Hospital of St. Louis, Missouri, for two years. In January, 1907, he located for practice in Decatur, where he has since remained and in the three years which have elapsed he has made steady and gratifying progress. That he stands high with the members of the medical profession is indicated in the fact that he has been elected secretary and treasurer of the Decatur Medical Society.

Dr. Johnston was married June 24, 1908, at Saybrook, Illinois, to Miss June Riggs, a daughter of C. B. Riggs. He belongs to Grace Methodist Episcopal church, and in his fraternal relations is connected with the Knights of Pythias. He is actuated in all that he does by a laudable ambition and by broad reading he keeps in touch with the advancement made by the medical fraternity, so that he employs the most modern methods in his practice.

WILLIAM K. COULTER.

In the years of an active busy life William K. Coulter firmly established himself in the high regard of those with whom he came in contact as a man of worth in business circles and of valuable characteristics in other relations. For a long period he was numbered among the well known and active farmers of Macon county, owning and cultivating one hundred and sixty acres in Friends Creek township. He made his home in this county from the spring of 1854 until his death, arriving here when a young man of about twenty-four years. He was born in Pennsylvania March 30, 1830, and when a lad accompanied his parents to Ohio, his youth being largely passed in Crawford county. On the 23d of August, 1853, in Marion county, Ohio, he was united in marriage to Miss Rebecca Hill, who was born and reared in that county.

In 1854 the young couple came to Illinois, arriving in Macon county in the month of April. They settled on land which had previously been purchased by Mrs. Coulter's father, and with characteristic energy William K. Coulter at once began to develop and cultivate the tract of one hundred and sixty acres. Subsequently he erected a good house and made other substantial improvements upon the place in accordance with the progressive spirit of modern times. He carried on farming there for a number of years or until 1887, when he retired from farm work and removed to Argenta, where he purchased a house which he remodeled, making it a comfortable home. He continued his residence in Argenta up to the time of his death, which, however, occurred while he was visiting in Jewell county, Kansas, on the 5th of September, 1893. His demise was deeply regretted by many friends as well as his immediate family, for while he had not figured prominently in public work, the sterling traits of his character were such as gained for him many friends.

Mrs. Coulter still survives her husband, and at his death took charge of the farm and business. The family numbered five daughters who are still living: Melissa, the wife of James Beckham, a resident farmer of Friends Creek township, by whom she has one child; Aggie, who is the wife of J. C. Bear of Los Angeles, California, and has two daughters and one son; Mrs. Retta McGinnis, a widow who has five children; Mrs. Ora Wilson, a widow who is living in California and has one son; and Blanche, the wife of O. B. Shuey, of Argenta, by whom she has four children. Mr. and Mrs. Coulter also lost nine children, eight dying in early childhood, while Josephine became the wife of Albert Bear and died April 13, 1904, at the age of forty-eight years, leaving three sons.

Mrs. Coulter has displayed excellent business ability in managing the interests left to her. She rents the farm and from it derives a good income. She and her daughter are members of the Christian church of Argenta, and she is well known in the town, her many good qualities winning her the friendship of those with whom she has come in contact. For fifty-seven long years she has lived in Macon county, and is therefore numbered among the pioneer residents. She has witnessed much of the growth, development and upbuilding of this part of the state, and can relate many interesting incidents of the early days when times and conditions were far different than at present.

CARTER ROLAND SCROGGIN.

Nothing appears more fitting than for the son to succeed the father, especially in a business which the father built up by years of patient application and for which the son is adapted by talent and education. If the same branch of industry has been carried along by several generations of the family the remark applies with still greater force. Each succeeding generation represents a new accumulation of energy, which if righly directed may lead to remarkable results along a line which, like a river, in many instances increases in strength and volume as it approaches the sea.

The Scroggin family of Macon county is an illustration of this truth. They have been farmers and stock-raisers and, beginning in Kentucky and continuing in Illinois almost from the time the state was admitted to the Union, the members of the family have notably contributed toward agricultural development. Carter R. Scroggin occupies a prominent place in Macon county as a member of the third generation of Scroggins in Illinois. He was born on a farm near Mount Pulaski, Logan county, May 6, 1860, and is a son of T. J. and Rebecca (Bicks) Scroggin. The father is now living at Decatur and a record of his career appears on another page of this work. The honored mother is deceased.

Carter R. Scroggin came with his parents to the farm where he now lives when he was four years of age. This was in 1864—forty-six years ago—and ever since that time he has made his home there. He was educated in the district schools and under the skilled direction of his father gained a thorough acquaintance with all farming operations and has always been closely identified with his father in business. At the present time he has charge of about thirteen hun-

dred acres and is extensively engaged in farming and stock-raising. He is a breeder of pure bred Hereford cattle and has one of the noted herds of the state, to which he has devoted a great deal of attention and which has reached a high degree of perfection, animals from his herd being well known prize winners at the county fairs. Mr. Scroggin has from his boyhood taken great interest in his calling and the result of his interest is to be seen in the up-to-date condition of everything about the farm, including houses, barns, outbuildings, fruit and ornamental trees and other accessories which are essential in a thoroughly up-to-date farm. He is a practical farmer and aims to keep fully abreast of the times and to make use of all aids that will assist in giving value or efficiency in any department of his work. He owns a general store at Harristown and is associated with his father in the cement, block and tile business, which has been growing rapidly in all parts of the country during recent years. He is the only living child of the family, his two brothers, James R. and Charles, having passed away in early manhood.

Mr. Scroggin was married in Blue Mound township, this county, January 30, 1880, to Miss Nancy F. Mathews, a native of Macon county and a daughter of John and Agnes (Johnson) Mathews. He has been greatly blessed in the possession of a wife of estimable character, who has proven to him a true helpmeet and companion.

In politics Mr. Scroggin was originally a democrat, voting three times for Grover Cleveland for president of the United States, but since his last vote for Mr. Cleveland he has voted with the republican party, although he is still a democrat. His mind is largely ocupied with his business affairs, but he is a generous and willing contributor to every cause that aims to advance the interests of his part of the county and is recognized as a man of unimpeachable integrity, whose promise is as good as his bond and who recognizes that his interests are identical with those of the community where he has spent nearly all the years of his life and where he is known as one of its leading citizens.

FRED M. VAN KOUGHNET.

The Warrensburg Canning Company is one of the chief business enterprises of the thriving little city in which it is located, and the successful management of the business in largely attributed to Mr. Fred M. Van Koughnet, who for six years has resided in this locality. He was born in Turin, New York, February 25, 1868, and is a son of N. W. and Helen (Riggs) Van Koughnet. His father was a farmer by occupation and one of the leading citizens of the locality in which he made his home. The common schools afforded the son his educational privileges and while still residing in the east he had some experience in the grocery business. He also made his home for a time in North East, Pennsylvania, where he managed two factories, spending five years in that place. About 1904 he came to Warrensburg and has since been identified with the Warrensburg Canning Company. The business is growing under the able management of Mr. Van Koughnet, who brought to it the experience of five years' connec-

tion with canning interests in the east. The trade has grown and developed under his direction and the enterprise is now a profitable one.

In January, 1899, Mr. Van Koughnet was married to Miss Helen Lewis and unto them have been born four children: William, Helen, Fred and Lewis, the eldest now in school. Mr. Van Koughnet became a member of the Masonic fraternity in Pennsylvania and he attends the Methodist Episcopal church. In fact he is in other ways allied with the best interests of the community in which he makes his home and as a citizen as well as a business man is held in high esteem because of his genuine worth.

EDGAR E. BARBER.

Edgar E. Barber, proprietor of a well equipped jewelry store, displays in its conduct that quality which denotes a thorough and efficient management. Early recognizing the fact that industry intelligently directed will ever win advancement and success, he has put forth earnest and discriminating effort and has won for himself a substantial position in the ranks of the leading merchants of the city. He was born in Springfield, Illinois, April 21, 1866, a son of Elam and Lucia Ann (Clark) Barber, both of whom were natives of Ohio, the former born in 1829, and the latter in 1836. Mrs. Barber was a second cousin of Zachary Taylor, president of the United States. The paternal grandfather was a native of Vermont and his wife of Connecticut. On removing westward he walked all the way from Vermont to Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Elam Barber became residents of Springfield, Illinois, in 1856, and were personally acquainted with Abraham Lincoln before his election to the presidency. The father was engaged in the transfer business, and during the war delivered goods and supplies to Camp Butler. He died February 14, 1902, in Springfield, where the mother still makes her home. In the family were two sons and a daughter: Edgar E.; M. J., now conducting a contracting business in Springfield; and Ella, the wife of Harry Eads, of Sacramento, California.

At the usual age Edgar E. Barber was sent to the public schools of the capital city and passing through consecutive grades became a high-school student. At the age of sixteen years, however, he put aside his text-books and began learning the watchmaker's trade, which he followed continuously until 1892, when he removed to Sullivan, Illinois, where he established a jewelry business. He was successful from the start and extended the scope of his activities there by opening a book department in his store on July 1, 1896. This likewise proved a source of profit and he conducted a growing business that is now being carried on by his son. Seeking a still broader field of labor, he removed to Decatur on the 1st of June, 1908, and here opened a jewelry store at No. 121 North Water street, in which location he continued until the big fire of August 22, 1909. His stock suffered considerable damage and his fixtures were entirely consumed in the flames. Not discouraged, he at once resumed business, opening a new store at 105 North Water street, with new fixtures and stock. Here he is conducting a successful business, carrying a large and well selected line of jewelry, of both

domestic and foreign manufacture, together with diamonds and precious stones. The attractive arrangement of his store, the excellent line which he carries, and his reliable business methods are all factors in the gratifying patronage which is accorded him.

On the 5th of September, 1888, Mr. Barber was married to Miss Sadie Nelch, of Springfield, a daughter of John and Jane (Roberts) Nelch, also natives of Illinois. Her father was for many years a successful contractor of Springfield. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Barber have been born four children: Harry E., who was born May 23, 1889, is an enterprising young business man of Sullivan; Edith Una, born June 24, 1891, is a high-school graduate; Violet Marie, born December 11, 1893, after a lingering illness of nearly three years, passed away September 2, 1910, at the age of sixteen years; and William was born September 29, 1897.

The family are all members of the Methodist church, which has been the religious faith of the Barbers from time immemorial. In Sullivan the daughter Edith was president of the Queen Esther Society of the church, and Mr. Barber was chairman of the board of stewards and also treasurer of the church for twelve years, and under his careful and efficient management the church prospered financially. Mr. Barber is prominent in Masonry, holding membership in Sullivan Lodge No. 764, A. F. & A. M.; Sullivan Chapter No. 128, R. A. M.; Sullivan Council No. 1, R. & S. M.; Beaumanoir Commandery No 9, K. T.; Eastern Star Chapter No. 39; and Mecca Shrine of Decatur. He also belongs to the Knights of the Maccabees. His political allegiance is given to the republican party, and while residing in Sullivan he served as a member of the city council. He is never neglectful of the duties of citizenship, and yet he does not care to hold public office, preferring to concentrate his time and energies upon his business affairs. His capability and enterprise are manifest in the success which has crowned his efforts, making him not only one of the successful merchants of Sullivan, but also of the larger city of Decatur.

JOHN JOSEPH FIEREK.

John Joseph Fierek, for six years past manager for the Postal Telegraph & Cable Company, at Decatur, was born at Stevens Point, Wisconsin, February 15, 1880, and is a son of August and Johanna (Kropidlowski) Fierek, natives of Poland and Germany respectively, who, seeking to improve their condition, came to America about 1872 and settled at Stevens Point, where they are both now living. Nine children have come to brighten their home. The father has been for many years in the railway service, acting as foreman of construction work for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul and Lake Shore Railways, and also in a similar capacity for the Chicago & Northwestern road. Under his direction the steel rails were laid for the tracks throughout the region of the great iron ore mines of the Gogebic range. He is a man of fine mental capacity and one who thoroughly understands all the details of the important department of railway construction to which he has devoted many years of his life.

John Joseph Fierek was the fourth child of the family and was educated in the public schools. At eighteen years of age he entered the office of the Western Union Telegraph Company at Ironwood, Michigan, and one year later was sent to Aberdeen, Washington, continuing at various points in the northwest. In March, 1904, he changed his allegiance to the Postal Telegraph & Cable Company and has since been constantly in this city. The company opened an office here about seventeen years ago and six years ago employed one operator besides the manager. At present the manager requires the assistance of three operators. While in charge Mr. Fierek has largely increased his company's business and each year it shows a steady percentage of growth. By his courteous attention to all callers, he has made many friends, the public generally finding him to be eminently capable and obliging and thoroughly adapted to the position he so ably fills.

In 1904 Mr. Fierek was united in marriage to Miss Anna Margaret Kennedy, a daughter of Edward and Margaret Kennedy, of Decatur. She was tenth in a family of twelve children and was born November 14, 1880. Her parents were born in Ireland and came to America in 1864, settling at Decatur, where the father became an employe in the freight department of the Wabash Railroad. He departed this life April 13, 1909, in his eighty-third year, but Mrs. Kennedy is still living at the family home, having arrived at the age of sixty-seven years. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Fierek: August Edward, born October 30, 1905; Mary, born August 23, 1907; and Anna Margaret, born August 6, 1909.

Mr. Fierek is not allied to any political party but votes independently. He and his wife are worthy members of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic church of Decatur, and by their upright lives and interest in all good works have made many friends whose confidence and respect are to be valued more than anything that could be purchased with money.

WILLIAM RITCHIE.

A history of the agricultural interests of Macon county would be incomplete and unsatisfactory were there failure to make reference to William Ritchie, one of the extensve landowners of central Illinois, his holdings embracing about twelve hundred acres of rich and productive land that returns to him an annual income and is the visible evidence of his life of well directed energy, thrift and capable management. He has now reached the seventy-second milestone on life's journey, his birth having ocurred in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, on the 18th of February, 1839.

His parents were Samuel and Susan (Henson) Ritchie, who in the year 1856 removed westward, settling first near Bearsdale, Illinois, on what is known as the old Ritchie homestead. The father was a man of considerable prominence in local affairs as well as one of the representative farmers of the community. He carried forward to successful completion what he undertook and in his dealings was ever straightforward and reliable.

Lessons of industry and integrity were early impressed upon the mind of his son, William Ritchie, who in his youthful days pursued his education in the public schools of Pennsylvania. As a young man he came to the middle west. He worked for his father for a time and then purchased about four hundred acres of land adjoining the old homestead. Laudable ambition prompted his persistent effort and intelligence actuated his industry so that in course of time he was able to add to his holdings. Additional purchases have made him the owner of twelve hundred acres, he being now one of the most extensive farmers of this part of the state. His land, too, is very productive and valuable and returns to him a most gratifying annual income. Not only is Mr. Ritchie engaged extensively and successfully in farming but about 1861 he also embarked in the grain business and is the owner of an elevator in Warrensburg. He has also met with substantial prosperity in connection with the grain trade but in a few months expects to retire from that business.

In 1875 Mr. Ritchie was united in marriage to Miss Mora D. Funk, a daughter of John J. and Catharine Funk. Two children have been born unto them, Lynn; and Vonna, the wife of Ted Brown. The family belong to the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Ritchie has ever been known as a man of business integrity and of personal worth. His success has never been reached by taking advantage of the necessities of another nor has his path been strewn with the wrecks of others fortunes. He has won his prosperity by legitimate methods through his persistent, earnest labor, and his example should serve to inspire and encourage others who have to start out empty-handed to win their way in the business world. His holdings of twelve hundred acres, aside from his grain business, make him one of the prosperous farmers of this part of the state and the methods which he has employed in the conduct of his interests commend him to the confidence of his fellowmen.

WILLIAM H. CURRAN.

Thoroughness in all that he undertakes has ever been characteristic of William H. Curran, since at an early age he began learning the blacksmith's trade—a business in which he has since engaged and in which he has made such substantial progress that he has gained therein a gratifying measure of prosperity. A native of Decatur, Mr. Curran was born September 11, 1865, a son of Joseph Curran, who was born in Ireland but came to the new world as a young man. Here he took up railroad work and about 1860 removed to Decatur, where he was made road foreman for the Wabash Railroad, in which position he served acceptably and continuously until the time of his death in 1875.

William H. Curran was unfortunate enough to lose his father, mother and a sister all in the same year. He was then taken by Thomas Hughes, by whom he was reared to manhood, being left an orphan when a little lad of ten summers. Under the direction of Mr. Hughes he afterward learned the blacksmith's trade and after completing his apprenticeship as a blacksmith and farrier he remained in business with Mr. Hughes until the latter's death on the 7th

WILLIAM H. CURRAN

of August, 1909. The business then reverted to Mr. Curran and Miss L. M. Knox, a niece of Mr. Hughes. For twenty-five years prior to the death of his foster-father, Mr. Curran had had the active management of the business, Mr. Hughes being practically an invalid. The business was established about 1868 and had become one of the most extensive enterprises of this character in the city. The work is confined almost wholly to horseshoeing, in which Mr. Curran is a past master, his expert workmanship being such that he is called upon to do shoeing of the most expert character upon some of the finest horses of this section of the state. He now employs four men and from two to four boys.

In 1900 occurred the marriage of William H. Curran and Miss Jane Knox, who was born in Lake City, Colorado, January 14, 1877, and is a niece of Mr. Hughes. They have become parents of four children, of whom three are living, Mary I., Margaret C. and Elizabeth L. Aldyth died in 1902.

The parents are active members of the Catholic church and Mr. Curran is a stalwart republican in politics. His life has been a very busy, active and useful one, and in his work he has manifested an unfaltering spirit of progress that has been one of the chief sources of his sucess.

SAMUEL H. PHILLIPS.

While Samuel H. Phillips is now living retired, his home being at No. 1060 West Decatur street in the city of Decatur, he was for many years closely identified with farming interests and is still the owner of valuable farm property which is cultivated under his supervision. He owns one hundred and ten acres of rich land on the Macon road about three and a half miles southwest of Decatur.

He was born upon his father's farm in Wheatland township, May 22, 1862. The place was known as the Joseph Bird farm and was the old home place of the family. His parents were Madison D. and Sarah Catharine (Elder) Phillips. The former was born in Kentucky and came to Illinois about 1853. Casting in his lot with the early settlers of Macon county, he was for a long period identified with farming interests. His energy and perseverance served to develop his place into one of the finest properties of the county and he continued as an active representative of agricultural interests until his death, which occurred about twelve years ago in March, 1898, his remains being interred in the cemetery at Salem, Illinois. In the family were six children, of whom Samuel H. Phillips was the second in order of birth. The others are as follows: Sarah Elizabeth is the wife of George Geddes and has two children, Ida and Pearl, the latter the wife of Claude Connett, by whom she has one child, Raymond. Mrs. Lillie R. Britton is now deceased. Etta A. lives with her mother in Decatur. Elmer D. married Minnie Bowman and has three children, Ora, Raymond and Freda. Marcenia M., the youngest, has also passed away.

Samuel H. Phillips attended the rural schools and worked upon his father's farm in the periods of vacation and in the morning and evening hours, doing the chores and other light labor until he was able to assist in the work of the

fields. He always gave his father the benefit of his services up to the time that he was twenty-four years of age, when he rented land and began farming on his own account. He continued to cultivate a rented farm for six years and on the expiration of that period he took up his abode in Decatur, where he remained for about three years. He owned at the time about seventy acres near the city and to it gave his personal supervision. Later he sold that property and purchased his present farm of one hundred and ten acres about three and a half miles southwest of Decatur on the Macon road. He took up his abode there and continued the cultivation of the place for eleven years, at the end of which time he rented his farm and returned to the city, where he is now living retired. He engaged in raising some stock and both branches of his business proved profitable. His progressive spirit prompted him to add modern improvements to his place and to secure the best machinery with which to carry on the work of the fields. The success which he attained through his well directed efforts at length enabled him to put aside active cares and he is now living retired.

On the 24th of November, 1886, Mr. Phillips was married to Miss Ida Price, a daughter of Thomas M. and Tryphena (Cox) Price. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips are well known in Decatur and are prominent in the social circles of the city. They hold membership in the Cumberland Presbyterian church, taking an active interest in church work and doing all in their power to promote the growth and extend the influence of their denomination. Mr. Phillips gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has served as a member of the school board and as township assessor but has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business interests and private affairs. A life-long resident of Macon county, he has a wide and favorable acquaintance and enjoys the high regard of all with whom he has been brought in contact.

ALBERT G. WEBBER.

In the past decade there has been a notable awakening throughout the country concerning the opportunities and the obligations of individuals toward their cities and among those who are foremost in promoting the welfare and progress of Decatur is Albert G. Webber. Not that his efforts have only been manifest during the last ten years, for at all times he has been loyal to the city of his residence. In later years, however, he has been connected with many organized movements, the efforts of which are manifest in tangible results.

A native of Wurtemberg, Germany, Mr. Webber was born in the year 1853 of the marriage of Frederick and Margaretha (Wenkle) Webber, who were also natives of that kingdom. The father was a weaver of cloth and also served as a soldier and officer in the imperial army, remaining a resident of Germany until his death. Subsequently the mother with her two children, Albert G. and Frederica J., sailed from London, England, in the spring of 1862 on the little sailing vessel, Rhein. They were forty-two days on the voyage ere they reached the harbor of New York. From the eastern metropolis they proceeded to

Williamsville, Sangamon county, Illinois, where they remained that year and then came to Decatur, the mother here residing until called to her final rest in December, 1897.

Albert G. Webber was a lad of nine years when brought to the United States. He could not speak a word of English at the time but with a natural quickness of the child he picked up a knowledge of the language, which was promoted by his attendance in the ward schools of Decatur. At that time there were but two schools in this city and no high school. His mother greatly desired that he should learn a trade and twice apprenticed him but the effort proved futile. His tastes were not in that direction and his nature rebelled at being forced into a work entirely uncongenial. For seven and a half years he engaged in railroading in connection with the Rock Island and Wabash Railway Companies, spending two years as telegraph operator with the Wabash and five and a half years as passenger conductor on the Rock Island. It was during his connection with the latter that he turned his attention to what really became his life work. His interest in the study of law was aroused and he began devoting his leisure hours to the mastery of those text-books which are fundamental elements in the science of jurisprudence. He became a law student in the office of Gilmore & Anderson, distinguished attorneys of Keokuk, Iowa, closely applied himself to the work in hand and in June, 1878, successfully passed an examination that secured his admission to the bar. He at once located for practice in Decatur and has gradually built up an extensive clientage. He feels that he ought to express great gratitude for the kindness and cooperation he has received from the people of Decatur and Macon county, who have bestowed upon him uniform confidence during the years of his business career. On the other hand they have recognized his ability and felt that in giving him their patronage they were placing their legal interests in safe hands. He has ever been most careful in the preparation of cases and his devotion to his clients' interests is proverbial.

Mr. Webber is well versed in the various departments of the law and in other fields has also done capable and resultant work. He has acted as trustee and attorney for the Decatur Chamber of Commerce since its organization and is in thorough sympathy with its object to build a greater and better city. There is little doubt of the fact that to the members of this body is largely due the growth of Decatur, which has increased more than fifty per cent in the last few years, for various industrial and manufacturing enterprises have been induced to remove here, bringing with them many trades people. They are many who accord to Mr. Webber the credit of being instrumental in establishing the Tract Index System and abstract books of Macon county, and in association with Dr. Hawkins and Dr. J. W. Darby he was given credit with the diplomatic service for bringing about the union between the industrial school of James Millikin and the university under the control of the Cumberland Presbyterian church. The Thomas Davis drinking fountain had its inception in the suggestion and was later built under the direction of Mr. Webber by Thomas Davis, its location being between the two railroad stations.

In the spring of 1886 occurred the marriage of Mr. Webber and Miss Alice M. Roth, of Butler county, Pennsylvania. Their family numbers three sons and

three daughters, namely: Frederick R., who will graduate in June, 1911, from Thiel College, Greenville, Pennsylvania; Gilmore R., Margaretha S. and Albert G., who are all in their junior year at Millikin University; Helen A., a junior in the Decatur high school; and Mary F., in the eighth grade in the ward schools. Mr. Webber has always been a strong advocate and supporter of education, as evidenced by the fact that he had given his children every opportunity for advancement in that direction.

Fraternally he has been connected with Macon Lodge, No. 8, A. F. & A. M., for more than thirty years. He has been a member of the Lutheran church of Decatur for forty-six years and has seen its growth from a half dozen emigrant families until there are now three church organizations, with a membership of nearly two thousand, and two parochial schools. His wish is to live long enough to contribute of the best thought and efforts of his life, to see and make the city of Decatur a "jewel" upon the bosom of the great state of Illinois, desiring its advancement not only in material but also in intellectual and moral progress. His efforts are bent in this direction and while he is known as a successful and able lawyer of Decatur, he is equally widely known because of the value and effectiveness of his public service.

WILLIAM BARNES, M. D.

There are occasional proofs of the fact that America is not entirely given over to the spirit of commercialism as many believe, for there are here and there men to whom the attainment of material success is but a means to an end. Dr. Barnes has won prosperity, but above and beyond all this, he is the scientist in his surgical practice, in which broad humanitarianism often plays a strong part, and in his collection of butterflies, for he is one of the eminent lepidopterists of the country. In this he finds recreation as well as keen interest, and his labors have constituted a valuable contribution to science, inasmuch as his collection surpasses in number and perfection that of any other in the United States.

Dr. Barnes is one of Decatur's native sons, born September 3, 1860. His father, Dr. W. A. Barnes, was a pioneer resident and also a prominent physician of Macon county and the son's interest in the science of medicine was early aroused and stimulated. After his graduation from the Decatur high school in 1877, he pursued a regular scientific course in Harvard University, and is numbered among its alumni of 1883. He next entered the Harvard Medical School of Boston, and on the completion of the regular three years' course, was graduated as honor man of the class of 1886. His theoretical knowledge was then put to the practical test in actual service as house surgeon of the Boston City Hospital, with which he was thus connected for two years. As long as there is something to be known and learned concerning the human body and of the onslaughts of disease, Dr. Barnes will remain an interested student of the profession. His researches have covered a wide field. He studied under Prof. Alexander Agassiz, to whose encouragement and inspiration he has ever attributed much of his success, and under the direction of the Newport professor, pre-

pared a thesis from original investigation on the subject of the development of the spinal cord.

For two years Dr. Barnes was connected with the Boston hospital, which brought him broad and practical experience, but with unexplored fields before him he again resumed his studies in Europe, visiting many of the clinics and coming under the instruction of a number of the most eminent physicians and surgeons of the old world. For a year he was in a hospital in Vienna and pursued a course of study in Munich, Germany, winning a special diploma for his work in gynecology. He was also for five months at Heidelberg, where he acted as assistant to the celebrated surgeon Czerny. He returned to Decatur in October, 1899, and opened an office.

Dr. Barnes has practiced continuously in Decatur since his return to America and at times has gone into other fields where his professional service has won him recognition. One who wrote of him ten or more years ago, said: "Whatever his ambitious nature and determined labor can accomplish in the line of his work, he has done. He will never cease to be a student of his profession, and a brilliant career seems open before this young physician, who has already gained a patronage which might well be envied by many an older practitioner." The prediction of ten years ago has been more than verified. Ceasing to practice in the general field of medicine, he has confined his attention to general surgery and his hospital work monopolizes all of the time which he cares to give to his profession. He is chief of the staff of St. Mary's Hospital, with Dr. William M. Fitzpatrick and Dr. J. H. Spyker as his assistants. His ability today places him in a prominent position in the ranks of the eminent surgeons of the middle west and has also gained him wide recognition in the east. In his work he has made a specialty of transplanting bone, in which connection he has successfully performed some most difficult operations, such as taking a piece of the bone of the leg for use in the nose. He is consulting surgeon of the Wabash Railroad and possesses one of the most complete medical libraries in the state.

Dr. Barnes is by nature a scientist. From his boyhood days he has been interested in entomology, and in other fields he has carried his investigations; his specialty, however, being lepidoptera. He has a collection of butterflies and moths not only unexcelled but also unequalled in the entire country. Even in the Brooklyn Institute Museum, the American Museum of Natural History, New York, the National Museum in Washington, the Field Museum in Chicago and the Holland collection in Pittsburg, there is nothing to equal in extent and beauty the collection which Dr. Barnes has secured of North American lepidoptera. His splendid museum is housed in fireproof rooms in his home at No. 500 West Main street, where he employs as curator Dr. McDunnough, originally from Canada, who recently, however, has spent many years in study in Germany. At the present time John A. Grossbeck, of the New Jersey agricultural experimental station, is engaged in classifying Dr. Barnes' geometridæ, and Paul S. Welch, assistant biology professor in James Millikin University, also devotes his leisure time to assisting these two. Besides there are many field men and collectors who give all or a part of their time to adding to the collection of Dr. Barnes. It is estimated that his collection contains one hundred and fifty thousand secimens, representing about seven thousand species. On one occasion,

Dr. Barnes was asked when he began collecting. He replied, "I was born on the 3d of September. I think I began collecting on the 4th." Indeed, it has been a lifelong interest, and he is now building an addition to his museum, a fireproof room sixteen by twenty feet. His specimens include species from the Arctic to Mexico. Each year lepidopterists from various parts of the country meet at Decatur to view the collection of Dr. Barnes and to promote their own knowledge in scientific discussion. The Doctor's library upon this subject is one of the most complete in the country. His work among his butterflies is an ideal change from his professional life. On several occasions he has made trips to California, returning with valuable additions for his collection. On a recent occasion Dr. Barnes said: "Nine men out of ten on the street think a man who puts in much of his valuable time and some money in collecting bugs is bughouse, but that is because the glories of doing other things than chasing the almighty dollar is unknown in this country. We are a young nation, and the anxiety to make money is still paramount. Collecting butterflies is a comparative rarity in this country as yet. In Germany and England, however, it is quite common and there are plenty of people who find time to bring together butterfly collections. Some Englishmen who have emigrated to Canada also are adept to the sport." Few men are so entirely free from the desire for large material success. He looks at life, however, from other standpoints than that of acquiring wealth. He knows how to "make of labor a delight." He enjoys life fully and his pleasures as well as his work constitute a valuable contribution to the progress of science.

Dr. Barnes was married in 1891 to Miss Charlotte Gillette, a daughter of John D. Gillette, whose extensive operations as a dealer in cattle have occasioned him to be termed the "cattle king of Illinois." Dr. and Mrs. Barnes have two children, William, Jr., born in December, 1895; and Joan Dean Gillette Barnes, born in June, 1892. Theirs is a hospitable home, ever open for the reception of their many friends. The Doctor is and has been president of the Decatur Country Club since its organization, and is also president of the new City of Decatur and Macon County Hospital Association.

GEORGE W. KRAFT.

George W. Kraft, one of the most prominent, prosperous and public-spirited citizens of Decatur and Macon county, has for more than two decades been successfully identified with manufacturing interests as the proprietor of a mineral water and bottling enterprise; but his activities have not been confined to this line alone, for in many other fields he has found scope for his splendid executive ability and sound business judgment. His birth occurred in Baltimore, Maryland, on the 21st of August, 1852, his parents being Michael and Margaret (Strickfus) Kraft. The father was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, in 1812, while the mother's birth occurred in Baltimore, in the year 1839. Michael Kraft came to the United States as a youth, locating in Baltimore. In 1864 he journeyed westward to Decatur, Illinois, intending to become identified with agricul-

tural interests here, but his demise occurred just two weeks later. His wife was called to her final rest in 1878.

George W. Kraft obtained his education in the schools of his native city, and after coming to this county learned the trade of brick moulding, becoming an expert in that line of work at a time when hand moulds were used. He also worked as a brick burner, and his arduous toil in this connection impaired his health to such an extent that he was compelled to abandon that field of activety. Learning cigar making, he then went to Quincy and secured employment at that trade. He was poisoned by ivy, however, and returning to Decatur, entered the service of Joseph Michal, while subsequently he acted as foreman for Andy Keppler, who employed forty or more men. Three years later he became half owner of a cafe, which he conducted in partnership with James Keefe for four years. On the expiration of that period he sold out and took up his abode on a farm, being successfully engaged in its operation for four years. At the present time he owns two hundred and fifty acres of land in Macon county, and another tract of three hundred and sixty acres in Alexander county, all of which is well improved and under a high state of cultivation. He still manages the farms, but employs a foreman on each place to supervise the active work of the fields. In 1889 he purchased a half interest in a mineral water and bottling business and at the end of three weeks purchased his partner's interest, since which time he has remained the sole proprietor of the establishment, having built up an extensive and profitable trade. He was also engaged in the lumber business for a time, but eventually disposed of his interests in that connection. He is likewise interested in gold mining as a speculator, and is one of the promoters of mining interests in Gilpin county, Colorado. After developing six thousand acres of coal property in Nokomis he sold it to the Peabody Coal Company of Chicago. He owns a third interest in the AKR Gold Mining & Milling Company, which recently installed an electric light plant and improved machinery. This property is located on the Moffat Road, two miles from Rollinsville, Colorado. Mr. Kraft erected the hotel bearing his name in Decatur, and has ever been a most prominent and influential factor in all projects tending to promote the growth and development of the city. His connection with any undertaking insures a prosperous outcome of the same, for it is in his nature to carry forward to successful completion whatever he is associated with. He has earned for himself an enviable reputation as a careful man of business, and in his dealings is known for his prompt and honorable methods, which have won him the deserved and unbounded confidence of his fellowmen.

On the 2d of May, 1880, Mr. Kraft was united in marriage to Miss Emma A. Delbridge, of Blue Mound township, Macon county, her parents being Henry and Louise Delbridge, natives of Germany. They took up their abode in this county at an early day, the father being successfully engaged in general agricultural pursuits. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Kraft were born three children, as follows: George J., whose natal day was January 18, 1883; Elmer H., born November 3, 1885, who is now interested in his father's bottling business; and Edna Louise, the wife of James Whitley, an attorney of Decatur. The wife and mother passed away on the 8th of December, 1904.

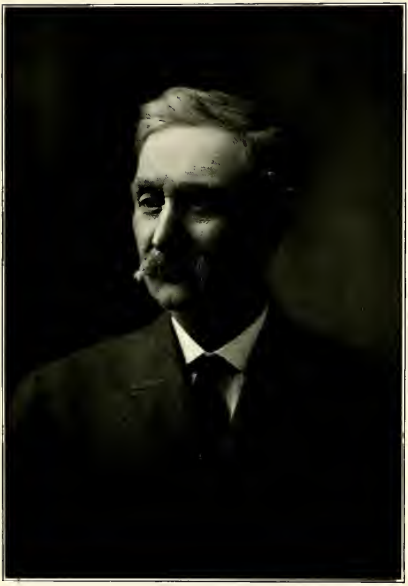
In politics Mr. Kraft is a republican, and at one time he was elected as tax collector of Blue Mound township. He was instrumental in the organization of the Volunteer Firemen's Association, and is captain of the famous Rescue Hose Company No. 1. Fraternally he is identified with the Masons, the Knights of Pythias and the Eagles. He also belongs to the Turn Verein and the Elks, and he and his family are devoted members of the Lutheran church. He stands foremost in his community as one of its leading and influential citizens, and is a man honored and esteemed wherever known.

C. W. FRENCH.

The farming interests of Illini township find a worthy representative in C. W. French, who is devoting his energies to the cultivation and development of a farm about two miles south of Warrensburg. Within the boundaries of his place are comprised two hundred and forty acres of fine land that readily responds to the care and labor which he bestows upon the fields, bringing forth rich fruits annually. His methods are practical, his labors are of a progressive character and as the years have passed by he has come to be recognized as one of the leading farmers of this part of the county.

New Hampshire has furnished to Macon county not a few of her worthy citizens, including Mr. French, who was born in Loudon, November 4, 1843, and is a grandson of Samuel and Susan (Tilton) French. The grandfather was one of the leading and influential citizens of his locality and was prominent in politics as a representative of the whig party. At one time he served as sheriff of Merrimack county, New Hampshire. His son, Hiram French, also a native of that state, was for some years a merchant in the town of Pittsfield but later retired from commercial life and took up his abode upon a farm, devoting his remaining days to general agricultural pursuits. He married Lydia Batchelder and in their home C. W. French spent his youthful days, being trained to habits of industry, economy and integrity—habits which in later years have borne rich fruit. His education was acquired in the east and after attending the grammer schools he became a pupil of the Pittsfield Academy. He remained a resident of New England until he attained his majority, when, thinking that he might have better opportunities in the new and growing west he left New Hampshire and came to Macon county, Illinois, making his way to Harristown, where he worked at the carpenter's trade, while subsequently he took up the occupation of farming. In 1865, however, he returned to the east, spending about a year in that section of the country.

In the spring of 1866 Mr. French came again to Illinois and began farming in connection with his brother, renting two hundred and forty acres of land, which they cultivated and improved for ten years. On the expiration of that period Mr. French purchased his present farm and by good management has converted it into one of the valuable properties of this section of the county. It comprises two hundred and forty acres of rich land and his careful cultivation of the fields results in the raising of splendid crops. His farm work is



C. W. FRENCH

carried on along progressive lines and his labors are bringing him substantial and well merited success.

On the 16th of March, 1868, Mr. French was married to Miss Addie Chesley, formerly of Epsom, New Hampshire, and a daughter of John Chesley. Their marriage has been blessed with four children: Herbert, who married Blanch Harbarger and has four children, Frank, Russell, Myrtle and Ruth; Clara, who is the wife of C. A. Dresbach and has a son, Harold; Laura A., at home; and Olive E., who completes the family.

Mr. French gives his political support to the republican party which he has always endorsed since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He has held some local offices, serving as trustee of the cemetery, and as supervisor, filling the later position for four years. He has also been a member of the school board for thirty-two years and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion who advocates practical and progressive measures for the improvement of the schools that they may be made an instrument for the thorough training of the youth as a preparation for life's practical and responsible duties. He also belongs to the Congregational church and his life in all of its varied relations indicates close conformity to the teachings of the church and to the high principles which were instilled in his mind in his youthful days. Moreover, he is a self-made man and one who deserves great credit for what he has accomplished. Coming to the west empty-handed, he displayed energy and determination and has worked his way steadily upward, overcoming the difficulties and obstacles in his path and gaining success by dint of perseverance and close application.

O. P. URMSTON.

Few residents of Harristown more richly deserve the title of a self-made man than does O. P. Urmston, who, starting out in life for himself at the early age of sixteen in the capacity of farm hand, has, during the intervening years, worked his way upward until today he is successfully engaged in business, as the proprietor of a large and well appointed general mercantile store. He is also serving his fellow citizens as postmaster, to which office he was appointed in 1908. One of Indiana's native sons, his birth occurred in Franklin county on the 28th of May, 1868, his parents being Joseph and Martha (Hancock) Urmston. The father was a merchant in the small village of Scipio, located on the border line between Ohio and Indiana, and there O. P. Urmston was reared, devoting the period of his boyhood and youth to the attainment of an education in the common schools and to assisting his father in the work of the store. He remained at home until sixteen years of age, when he started out on his own account, working by the month as a farm hand. After a time he came to Macon county, when twenty-three years of age, and for about two years was here similarly employed.

On the 12th of October, 1893, Mr. Urmston was united in marriage in Harristown to Miss Adella Elder, a native of Sangamon county, Illinois, and

a daughter of M. R. and Blanche (Douglas) Elder. After his marriage Mr. Urmston was engaged in agricultural pursuits for a number of years, and then, in 1908, came to Harristown and established his present business. He carries a well selected line of general merchandise, and although one of the more recent enterprises of the city, the store has already been accorded a large patronage, the constant increase of which insures continued success in the future. Mr. Urmston has adopted most progressive methods in the conduct of his store, has instituted a policy which has awakened the confidence and trust of the general public and he is applying himself so closely to the further development of the trade that a most substantial growth of the business seems assured. Upon the opening of his establishment he was appointed postmaster and is now utilizing a portion of the store as a postoffice, to the duties of which he gives a large portion of his attention. He has proved himself a most efficient official, carrying on the business of that office in a manner which is at once satisfactory to his constituents and to the entire community.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Urmston has been born one child, a daughter, Ruth, who is still at home with her parents. They hold membership in the Christian church, in the work of which they are deeply and helpfully interested. They have already become well acquainted in the social circles of Harristown, where they have acquired a large circle of friends and where the hospitality of many of the best homes is freely extended them. In politics Mr. Urmston has given stalwart support to the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise, and that he has been called to fill important public offices is an indication of the fact that he has won the confidence and trust of his fellow citizens. For several years he has served as township clerk, and the duties of his public offices have ever been executed with the same promptness and care with which he has conducted his personal interests. He has ever been a strong advocate of progress and reform in connection with all community affairs, and is recognized as one of Harristown's most substantial and valued citizens.

JOSHUA JANVRIN.

Joshua Janvrin, whose only surviving son, Emery Janvrin, is a resident of Decatur, was born in Seabrook, New Hampshire, November 11, 1802, a son of Joshua N. and Mary (French) Janvrin. Tradition has it that Jean Janvrin and his wife, Elizabeth (Le Couster) Janvrin, lived on the Isle of Jersey, which at that time belonged to France. Their son, Jean Janvrin, a seafaring man, sailed between the ports of Europe and America, carrying merchandise. On the 6th of August, 1696, he sailed on the Lisbon for Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in command of his own ship, the Four Friends. He built a wharf in Portsmouth, not finding one large enough to handle his cargoes and at that port, on the 12th erty. He died suddenly in Lisbon on one of his voyages.
of September, 1706, he married Elizabeth Knight. They had a family of two sons and two daughters, John, George, Molly and Betsy. The father was a man of liberal education and marked ability and became the possessor of a fine prop-

His eldest son, John Janvrin, was born in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, July 8, 1707, and on the 9th of November, 1751, married Elizabeth, a daughter of Captain Moses Stickney, of Newbury, Massachusetts. From them are descended the representatives of the Janvrin family in this country. John Janvrin was a graduate of Harvard, of the class of 1728, and was a schoolmaster at Hampton Falls from 1756 until 1762. He was a very successful teacher, imparting readily and clearly to others the knowledge that he had acquired and contributing much to the early educational progress of the district. In 1770 he purchased farms at Seabrook, New Hampshire, where he resided until death, which occurred on the 7th of October, 1780. He left a large estate to his children, his family numbering four sons and a daughter, John, James, William, George and Elizabeth. An uncle of Joshua Janvrin, whose name introduces this record, sailed from Newburyport for Spain in command of the schooner Siren, during the Napoleonic wars. He was captured by one of the vessels of Napoleon's fleet. His vessel was confiscated and the cargo of dried fish was appropriated for the use of Napoleon's army. There were about forty men aboard the schooner and they were given the ship Margaret in which to return to America. During the homeward voyage the vessel was wrecked. The majority of the crew escaped in the long boat and reached the shore safely. A few others embarked in a skiff and after innumerable dangers and untold suffering three of the number eventually reached land but John Janvrin, the commander of the vessel, generously allowed the boat, offering the only chance of escape from death, to be filled by others, and he and a few more heroic souls perished with the wreck of the ship Margaret. This is a part of the cause of the French spoliation claims.

Joshua Janvrin, who acquired his early education in the rural schools of his native county of Rockingham, New Hampshire, was reared on a farm. He was but two years of age when his parents removed to Newburyport, New Hampshire, where they remained for ten years. In 1822, when in his twentieth year, he went to live with John Locke, and there learned the trades of tanning and shoemaking. After two years spent as an apprentice he began business on his own account on a small scale, engaging in tanning leather and in manufacturing boots and shoes, making a specialty of manufacturing boots for fishermen. For his output he found a ready sale in the market at Portsmouth and that he was accorded a liberal patronage is indicated in the fact that he often worked on late into the night, sometimes until one o'clock. By his strict attention to business he acquired a handsome competence.

Not only did Mr. Janvrin prosper in his business undertakings but also became recognized as a prominent and influential resident of his community. He became prominent in political circles and served as selectman of his town, Seabrook, for three sessions. He was also justice of the peace for over twenty years, discharging his duties with marked fairness and impartiality. In 1850 and 1851 he was a member of the state legislature of New Hampshire and served on various committees. He was also appointed guardian for several children and was chosen to settle many estates, these facts indicating the unqualified confidence reposed in him by those who knew him. As he prospered in his undertakings he became a stockholder in several railroads and also in bank-

ing institutions, and was altogether one of the most prominent and influential residents of his community.

Joshua Janvrin married Miss Mary Fifield, who was born and reared in the adjoining town of Hampton Falls, New Hampshire. They became parents of five children, two sons and three daughters, but only two are now living: Mrs. Josephine Beckman, who is living at the old home in New Hampshire; and Emery Janvrin, whose sketch follows this. The wife and mother died in 1841. The husband and father, long surviving, passed away after a well spent life of nearly eighty years, his death occurring in 1882. His second wife, who died about 1850, was a half sister to his first wife, and by that union he had two children, Mary and John, both now deceased. For his third wife he married Mrs. Lydia Jane Blake, a widow, who is still living in the east, and to them was born a son, Joshua Neal, named for his grandfather.

EMERY JANVRIN.

Emery Janvrin, who for many years was actively and successfully engaged in farming on section 8, Illini township, Macon county, but since 1893 has lived retired in Decatur, has been a resident of the county altogether for forty-two years. He was born in Rockingham county, New Hampshire, July 7, 1833, and is a representative of a prominent and honored New England family of that district, being a son of Joshua and Mary (Fifield) Janvrin, of whom extended mention is made above. The family is of French origin and the first American ancestor came from the Isle of Jersey to New Hampshire in pioneer times. The grandfather, Captain Joshua Janvrin, was lost at sea on the 13th of December, 1817, while sailing with a load of fish to Baltimore. He was a retired vessel owner and sea captain. His brother John, with his ship and cargo of dried fish, was captured by the French during the Napoleonic wars and his ship was sold, after which he was sent home in a small vessel, but died en route. The family's French spoliation claims include this claim of the Janvrin family, and Emery Janvrin is one of the heirs should settlement be effected. He possesses some old and interesting heirlooms, including one of the first coffee mills ever made. This was owned by his grandfather and he also owns his old sea chest and an old rolling pin.

In the district schools of New Hampshire Emery Janvrin obtained a limited education, completing his course by one term's attendance at the old academy in Hampton Falls. He was engaged in farming during the summer months and that the winter seasons would not be a period of idleness he followed shoemaking during that portion of the year when work in the fields was impossible. In 1868 he came to Macon county and has since been identified with the interests of this locality. His first purchase was an eighty acres tract of land, which he bought from Mr. Sackett. The greater part of the land was unimproved but the previous owner was certainly a lover of flowers, for all around the little home were planted flowers, which in November were in bloom. With

characteristic energy Mr. Janvrin began the development of his farm and his life has ever been a useful one, characterized by diligent effort and determined purpose until his place was converted into a well developed and highly improved farm. That the methods he followed in its operation were practical, resulting in success, is indicated in the fact that he kept adding to his place from time to time until he owned a half a section of as fine land as can be found in this state. The work of improvement was carried on continuously and the farm was well enclosed with a fine hedge fence, many rods of tiling were laid and modern buildings were erected for the shelter of grain, stock and farm machinery. A pleasant and commodious residence was also built, an orchard and small fruits were set out and ornamental trees were also planted, serving as shade in the summer and protection from the winter winds. The work which Mr. Janvrin did made the farm one of the well developed properties and one of the most attractive homes of Illini township.

On the 15th of November, 1857, Mr. Janvrin was married in Rockingham county, New Hampshire, to Miss Theresa Blake, a daughter of Moses Blake, and a representative of one of the old New England families. Mr. Janvrin attributes much of his success to the aid and inspiration of his wife, who carefully managed the household affairs and always encouraged her husband in his work. They are now enjoying a well merited rest in a pleasant home at 1063 West Main street, having lived in Decatur since the spring of 1899. Their land has been equally divided among the ten children and yet Mr. Janvrin has sufficient capital to enable him and his wife to enjoy all of the comforts of life. They make occasional trips to New Hampshire and the eastern states to visit their relatives in that part of the country.

They have reared a family who are a credit to their name. George Parker the eldest son, married Rose Kepler and has three children, Raymond, Linn and Bonner. Harriet, the eldest daughter, is the wife of A. Bullard, of Crowley, Louisiana, and their children are Edna, Jessie May and Pearl. Lester N. is unmarried. William Henry wedded Jennie Brockway and has one son, Ralph. Harrison, a resident of Austin township, this county, married Alice Culp, and his children are Ruth, Mildred, Agnes and Marshall. Mary was the wife of Frank Bunker, who was killed while at work on the new bank building of Decatur, in October, 1909. He left his home in happy mood in the morning and while busy in the day fell fifty-two feet, the fall bringing instant death. He left a widow and six children, Hazel, Caroline, Helen, Walter, John Randall and Frances Bunker. The death of Mr. Bunker was a great blow to his family and his many friends. Charles, the seventh member of the Janvrin family, married Carrie Markel, and their children are Dillo, Florence and Theresa, the youngest being named for her grandmother. Luella is the wife of Albert Ferry, and their children are Howard, Mabel and Lawrence. Grace is the wife of Joseph Hamilton and they have three children, Gerald, Dorothy and Virginia. Frank Kelsey, who completes the family, wedded Maud Welt, and they have a daughter, Martha. Mr. and Mrs. Janvrin are not only proud of their family but also of their twenty-nine grandchildren. Mr. Janvrin has now passed the seventy-seventh milestone on life's journey. He possesses a most retentive memory and gave the history of

his ancestors without reference to any written data. He has always been progressive and public-spirited, and his worth in the community is widely acknowledged.

WILLIAM RIDGLEY.

Among Decatur's citizenship is a class who have well earned the rest that they are now enjoying—the retired farmers who long tilled the fields and persistently carried on the arduous work of developing and improving their places. That their methods were practical is indicated in the success which is now theirs. Mr. Ridgley belongs to this class, and is still the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of fine farm land in Piatt county. On his retirement, however, he took up his abode in Monticello, Illinois, later moving to Decatur, where he is now pleasantly located, having a comfortable home at No. 821 North Main street. He was born May 9, 1835, in Brooke county, West Virginia, so that seventy-five years have been added to the cycle of the centuries since he started upon life's journey. His parents were William and Jane (Edie) Ridgley. The father came from Baltimore, having followed the occupation of farming near the city. Subsequently he left Maryland and went to Virginia, where he took up farming. He made his home upon a farm, which he cleared and improved, continuing to reside in the same locality until the time of his death.

In the early boyhood days of William Ridgley the public school system was not well organized in the districts in which he lived and he pursued his education in the paid schools of that time, his own labors furnishing him the money necessary for his tuition. At the age of seventeen years, he began learning the carpenter's trade, which he followed in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, for about three years, and then sought the opportunities of the growing middle west, making his way at the age of twenty years to Urbana, Illinois. There he again worked at his trade, but remained at Urbana for only a brief period, after which he removed to Piatt county, and for more than a half century has been identified with its farming interests. He took up contracting there and was quite successful in his building operations but after working at his trade for four years, he purchased land in the county and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. While he carried on general farming, he also raised some stock, handling good grades of cattle, horses and hogs. His chief business, however, was the cultivation of the cereals best adapted to soil and climate. His methods of tilling the fields were practical and his labors brought him good return.

On the 9th of December, 1857, Mr. Ridgley was united in marriage to Miss Louisa Caster, and unto them were born five children: Franklin L., who married Effie Mitchell and is now deceased; Charles Henry, who married Lena Merriman; John G., who married Fannie Spear and has three children—Ralph, Herbert and Ethel; William S.; and Jennie, who died when twenty-six years of age. After losing his first wife, Mr. Ridgley was again married on the 16th of January, 1902, his second union being with Mrs. Catharine (Wise) Royer, a widow, who by her former marriage had five children: Charles; Winfield, who is mar-

ried and has three children; Elizabeth Jane, who is married and has two children; Silas; and Lee. Mrs. Ridgley is a daughter of William and Catharine (Kline) Wise. Her father removed from Pennsylvania to Summit county, Ohio, and there followed the trades of a mechanic and blacksmith.

Mr. Ridgley continued to reside upon the old home farm in Piatt county until 1891, when he removed to Monticello. In June, 1907, he removed to Decatur and has been prominent in public affairs, aiding largely in promoting the general welfare and upbuilding of the community. He has served on the school board, also as assessor of Piatt county, and in the discharge of his public duties manifests the same spirit of fidelity and integrity which has ever characterized him in private life. His political allegiance is given to the republican party. He has been prominent in the social life of the community and for over a half century has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Its teachings have guided his actions and he has ever endeavored to conform his life to its principles. His strict moral worth commends him to the confidence and good will of all, and no one speaks of William Ridgley except in terms of praise and regard.

A. WAIT.

The saying that "opportunity knocks but once," has in a measure become current, but there are hundreds of examples that are a refutation of this statement. The life record of A. Wait is one. Undiscouraged by disasters which overtook him, he has made steady progress toward the goal of prosperity during his residence in Decatur, and when one avenue of opportunity has seemed closed, he has carved out for himself another path eventually bringing him to the goal of his hopes. He is today one of the prominent and honored capitalists of the city and his record stands as a splendid example of what may be accomplished through determination and business ability.

Mr. Wait is numbered among Decatur's citizens who claim New England as the place of nativity or their ancestral home. He was born in Stowe, Vermont, June 24, 1840, and his parents, Daniel and Aliphal (Briggs) Wait, were also natives of that state. The father was a farmer by occupation, devoting his life for many years to agricultural pursuits in La Moille county, Vermont, where both he and his wife passed away. He was a school teacher and lived with the Douglas family, Stephen A. going to school to him. He traced his lineage back to England, although representatives of the name have resided in this country since 1616. From the same ancestry is descended Chief Justice Wait, who has taken great pains in having the genealogy of the family prepared. The Briggs family sent several of its members to the front in the Revolutionary war.

In the public schools of Vermont A. Wait pursued his early education and afterward attended Harvard Law School, from which he was graduated with the class of 1862, but he turned his attention to merchandising, which he followed until about 1895. In October, 1876, he came to Decatur and has since resided here. For several years he was connected with mercantile interests in this city, and in 1905 he erected the Wait building, which is a large, fine five-story brick

structure, occupied by the Gushard Dry Goods Company, with offices in the upper floors. He also erected the Arcade Hotel and the Decatur Hotel, both occupied by business houses and hotels. His labors have been a valuable factor in the upbuilding and improvement of Decatur. He is also the owner of the Bramble House in La Fayette, Indiana, and considerable other property in that state. In fact, he has invested heavily in hotels, hotel sites and other real estate and has been a most successful dealer in those properties. He is a practical thorough-going business man, never seeking political favors but concentrating his energies upon those interests which in legitimate field of business claim his time and attention. His judgment is sound, his discrimination keen, his enterprise unfaltering, and the combination of these qualities has made him a forceful figure in Decatur.

In 1863 Mr. Wait was united in marriage to Miss Nancy Ainsworth, of Macon county, and they have three children, Clarence A., Arthur and Fao. In his political views Mr. Wait is independent, exercising his right of franchise as his judgment indicates and not according to party dictation. He has won notable success during the period of his residence in Decatur. Heavy indebtedness was resting upon him when he came to this city, and with resolute spirit he set to work not only to meet every financial obligation but also to pass beyond into the realm of prosperity. This he has accomplished, his energy enabling him to overcome all difficulties and obstacles, while his aptitude for successful management and his genius for organization have brought him to a prominent place among the successful business men of the city.

JOHN F. GEPFORD.

John F. Gepford, superintendent of the county poor farm of Macon county, is recognized as a man of high character and one who is especially adapted for the position which he has occupied for three years past. He is a native son of Illinois, born in this county, November 14, 1859. His father, Daniel Gepford, was born in Pennsylvania in 1830, and came to this state when he was ten years of age. After spending one year in Sangamon county, he removed to Macon county and engaged in farming, acquiring eighty acres of land in this county. In 1892 he removed to Missouri and continued there until his death.

John F. Gepford received his education in the district schools, and in his earlier years became familiar under his father with the operation of the home farm. After his marriage he engaged in farming on his own account, bringing to his work an energy and ability that produced gratifying results. He continued upon the farm until December, 1907, when he was appointed by the board of supervisors county superintendent of the poor farm. In the discharge of his duties in this position he has shown good judgment that has met not only with the cordial approval of the board, but also with the approval of the taxpayers and people in all parts of the county who are interested in the administration of this institution.

J. F. GEPFORD

On the 12th of September, 1887, Mr. Gepford was married to Miss Capitola Knight, a daughter of Aaron and Susanna (Will) Knight, the former a native of Ohio, and the latter of Pennsylvania. The mother came to Macon county in her childhood and the father as a young man. Mr. Knight was born in 1821 and departed this life in 1893. His estimable wife was born in 1838 and died in 1907. They were married in this county and were the parents of eight children, seven of whom are now living. To Mr. and Mrs. Gepford four children have been born: Susie, who was born October 1, 1888, and died in March, 1909; Helen, born October 4, 1889, now living at home; Harry, born December 14, 1892, also at home; and Sydney, born December 15, 1897.

Mr. Gepford has been for many years identified with the republican party and has taken an active interest in its success, heartily believing that the administration of county, state and national affairs are more wisely conducted through the channels of this party than by any other means. Hence he is a partisan and regards with grave concern the movement in different parts of the country that aims to disintegrate the long established political organizations. Socially he is connected with the Ionic Lodge of the Masonic Order, and with Lodge No. 1626, Modern Woodmen of America, of Decatur. He has for many years been an active member of the Methodist church, and by an upright and honorable life has gained the esteem of the best people of the county, being ably assisted by his wife, who has proven at all times a worthy helpmeet to her husband.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

John Quincy Adams, at the age of about seventy-three years, is living retired in Decatur, his home being at No. 1157 East Riverside Drive. He is numbered among the veterans of the Civil war and among those who were formerly closely connected with the farming interests of Macon county. Now he is living retired and the fruits of his former labor supply him with all of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life. He was born near Terre Haute, Indiana, on the 13th of April, 1838, his parents being Samuel and Elsie Adams, the former one of the prominent and influential residents of Indiana, where he located at a very early day. He was the son of McDaniel Adams, who came to the middle west from Virginia, where he was well known as a planter.

John Q. Adams spent his youthful days under the parental roof and acquired his education in the schools of Indiana, where he remained until early manhood, when he came to Illinois. He worked on his father's farm during the time he was acquiring his education and afterward rented land, beginning farming on his own account following his removal to this state. By carefully saving the money which he made upon the rented farm he accumulated a sufficient amount to enable him to purchase a small tract of land and by hard work he was just about to make the final payment when the Civil war broke out. He had watched with interest the progress of events in the south, had noted the threatening attitude of the slaveholding states and resolved that if a blow were

struck to overthrow the union he would stand loyally in its defense. He was therefore one of the very first to volunteer for active duty at the front, becoming a member of the Twenty-seventh Regiment of Indiana Infantry. He was wounded at Antietam, being shot through both legs, but was only in the hospital for a short time and when he had recovered he reenlisted as a member of the Eleventh Indiana Infantry, with which he served throughout the remainder of the war. His military record is a creditable one and few among the old soldiers of Decatur are more widely or more favorably known. He is very prominent in Grand Army circles and through his membership in that organization keeps in close touch with his old comrades. He took part in many a sanguinary battle and went on the long, hard marches, but no matter what the task assigned him he never faltered nor failed to give back blow for blow to the enemy.

On the 20th of September, 1864, Mr. Adams was united in marriage to Miss Angeline McCarty and unto them have been born six children. Ella, the eldest, is the wife of Tim McDermott and has six children. Sarah and Samuel have both passed away. Frank married Pearl Dodson and has four children. Ollie is deceased. Mattie is the wife of Isaac Iler and has one child.

After the war Mr. Adams resumed farming and as the years advanced brought his fields under a high state of cultivation, added many modern equipments and introduced much modern machinery to facilitate the work of the fields. His methods were at once practical and progressive and his labors brought substantial results. Year after year he was able to add somewhat to his capital and at length felt that his success was sufficient to justify him in putting aside the active work of the farm and retire from business life. In 1890, therefore, he took up his abode in Decatur, where he now makes his home, enjoying in well earnest rest the fruits of his former toil. He is a member of the Congregational church and his life has been spent in harmony with his professions, bringing him the respect and good will of his fellowmen. He has ever been honorable in business and loyal in citizenship and the record which he has made has gained for him the kindly regard of all with whom he has come in contact.

ROBERT ARNOLD HENSON.

Robert Arnold Henson is busily employed in the cultivation and improvement of a farm in Illini township which is a part of the Henson estate. He was born in Macon county on the 17th of December, 1862, and is a representative of one of the old families of Illinois. He was named in honor of his grandfather, Robert Henson, who removed from Kentucky to Macon county. His father, John Henson, whose birth occurred in Kentucky, was but a boy when the family came to Illinois. He first settled in Illini township and the place upon which he lived is known as the old Henson homestead. Throughout his life he devoted his time and energies to general agricultural pursuits but retired a short time prior to his death and removed to Decatur, where his remaining days were passed. He was called to his final rest on the 1st of January, 1891, while his wife, who bore the maiden name of Anna Knight, died on the 18th of May, 1882. They were

long residents of this part of the state and enjoyed the good will and respect of all with whom they came in contact. In their family were six children, of whom Mrs. Mary Gepford, Jane and Mrs. Elizabeth Selby are all now deceased. Those still living are: William, who is yet a resident of Macon county; Aaron, who is now located in the state of Oklahoma; and Robert A., of this review.

The last named was reared in his father's home and pursued his education in the schools of Warrensburg and of Boiling Springs. The periods of vacation were devoted to farm work and he early became familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the farm lad. He was diligent and persevering and his early experiences well qualified him for the successful conduct of business affairs in later life. When twenty-one years of age he rented land and started out in life on his own account. He had previously worked by the month as a farm hand and when he began farming for himself his diligence and determination brought immediate results. He is now renting a part of the old Henson place—a valuable farm in Illini township, the soil being rich and productive and responding readily to the care and labor which he bestows upon it. He never falters in what he undertakes but with persistent energy carries his plans forward to successful completion.

On the 7th of May, 1894, Mr. Henson was married to Miss Ida Gepford, a daughter of George and Letitia (Shepard) Gepford. Her father came from Pennsylvania and was known as one of the leading and influential residents of this locality. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Henson has been born a son, George Leslie, who is still in school.

The family all belong to the Methodist Episcopal church and take an active part in its work. Mr. Henson is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and is officially connected with the schools of the neighborhood as a director. He is interested in all that pertains to public welfare and progress and cooperates in many movements for the general good. He has been a lifelong resident of the county and has therefore witnessed its growth and development for forty-eight years, during which period he has seen remarkable changes as the county has put aside all of the appearances and evidences of pioneer life and taken on all of the advantages known to older settled communities. Nature was lavish in her gifts to Macon county, for nowhere is there to be found richer land or conditions that more surely result in good crops. Mr. Henson, therefore, is fortunate in having cast in his lot with the farmers of Illini township and as the years have passed on has established himself among the substantial agriculturists of the community.

WILLIAM A. BARNES, M. D.

Only noble lives leave an indelible impress on the localities in which they have lived and labored. It is through high and honorable principles, as exemplified in daily conduct, that one wins the regard of his fellowmen and makes for himself a place in a community that, when left vacant, is hard to fill. So much of strength and tenderness, so much of honor and fearlessness were interwoven in the life of Dr. William A. Barnes that aside from his business and pro-

fessional success, his name deserves a prominent place in the history of Macon county.

New Hampshire claimed him as a native son, his birth having occurred in Claremont, March 15, 1824. He represented a family connected with New England from the period of its early colonization. His paternal grandfather removed from Farmington, Connecticut, to Claremont, New Hampshire, when that section of the state was almost an unbroken wilderness and amid the green hills there he reared his family. His son, Ira N. Barnes, was born in Claremont and after reaching years of maturity devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits, but an accident caused his death when he was only about thirty years of age. He had married Harriet Eastman, a representative of an old New England family of considerable prominence. Their family numbered five children.

Dr. Barnes, who was only six years of age at the time of his father's death, went to live with his grandfather in 1831, and there remained until he reached the age of fifteen years, devoting much of the time to study in the public schools and in the Claremont Academy. He then left New England, and from 1839 until 1844 resided with a cousin in Dayton, Ohio. There he resumed his studies until qualified for teaching, when he took up the work of the schoolroom in Montgomery county, Ohio, being at that time twenty years of age. He also devoted a portion of his time to teaching music, nature and study having advanced him far in that art, but the study of medicine seemed more attractive to him than either branch of his teaching, and in 1846 he began reading in the office and under the direction of Dr. Van Harlingen, of Centerville, Ohio. His collegiate course was pursued in the Starling Medical College at Columbus, and in the fall of 1849 he pursued a second course of lectures in the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia, and was there graduated with the class of 1850.

Dr. Barnes located for practice in Centerville, Ohio, but in the fall of the same year removed to Valparaiso, Indiana, where he practiced for three years. He then came to Decatur in 1853, and for a short time followed his profession in this city, but extended his efforts into business lines that ultimately monopolized his time and energies. His first work aside from his profession was the development and cultivation of a tract of land about four miles from Decatur, which he purchased upon his arrival here. In 1855 he became proprietor of a drug store formerly owned by Drs. King and Chenoweth, conducting it profitably until 1859. During the period of the civil war, his time was largely occupied with official service, and in 1861 he was appointed master in chancery, which position he filled in most creditable and satisfactory manner until 1865, when he resigned.

The name of Dr. Barnes is inseparably interwoven with the development of manufacturing interests in Decatur, and in this manner he contributed much to the upbuilding of the city. In 1860 he became a partner of William Lintner, and they established a factory for the manufacture of hay presses. The undertaking proved profitable, and a department for the manufacture of pumps and agricultural implements was added. From the beginning the business constituted a gratifying source of income, for the excellence of the output and the reliable trade methods of the house soon secured an extensive and growing patronage. Dr. Barnes sold out some years later, having in the meantime, in 1868,

concentrated his attention and energies largely upon real estate operations, and the improvement of his lands. His remarkable foresight and sagacity had prompted him to invest extensively in lands in Macon, Piatt and Moultrie counties soon after coming to Illinois. The rapid settlement of the Mississippi valley led to a quick rise in property values and the sale of his real estate made Dr. Barnes the possessor of a handsome fortune. He displayed remarkable sagacity in placing his investments and seemed always to sell at the most advantageous period.

The home life of Dr. Barnes was at all times attractive. He was married in October, 1849, to Miss Eleanor Sawyer, a native of Lebanon county, Pennsylvania, with whom he had become acquainted while she was residing in Centerville, Ohio. The marriage, however, was celebrated in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, and it was subsequent to that time that Dr. Barnes pursued his studies in the University of Pennsylvania. Unto them were born four sons and a daughter: Albert, a prominent business man of Decatur, who died in 1909; Charles M., who was successfully engaged in practicing law in Boston, Massachusetts, until his death, which occurred March 9, 1893; Mary, the wife of Geo. R. Stanton, of Decatur; William, a physician and surgeon of Decatur; and a son who died in infancy.

Arriving in Decatur when the city was but a small and unimportant village, Dr. Barnes was connected with its public life as well as its business interests and no movement for the welfare and improvement of the city sought his cooperation in vain. He became one of the earliest supporters of the republican party in the county and marched under its banners until his death, which occurred in Dansville, New York, August 20, 1897. Being an opponent of the system of slavery, he naturally joined the ranks of the party formed to prevent its further extension into the north. He supported Fremont in the campaign of 1856 and delivered a number of political addresses in that year. Naturally his prominence and ability led to his selection for political office, and prior to the civil war he was elected mayor of Decatur and later served for several terms as a member of the city council. With other prominent men he was influential in securing to the city the system of railroads which has made it an important commercial center, and he was one of the active members of the Citizens Association organized to advance the public interests of Decatur. There was no more loyal friend to the school system than Dr. Barnes, and his interest therein was manifest in tangible measure in his service as a member and president of the board of education. He served as president of the Decatur public library board from its organization until his death with the exception of a single year.

A contemporary biographer has said of him: "His benevolence was unostentatious and genuine, and there is nothing in the story of his life to show that he ever for a moment sought to compass a given end for the purpose of exalting himself. He championed measures and aided men and accepted as his reward that thrill of delight which always accompanies victories achieved. Endowed by nature with a sound judgment and an accurate, discriminating mind, he feared not that laborious attention to the details of business so necessary to achieve success, and this essential quality was guided by a sense of moral right, which would tolerate the employment only of those means that would bear the most rigid

examination and by a fairness of intention that neither sought nor required disguise. It is but just and merited praise to say of Dr. Barnes that as a business man he ranked with the ablest; as a citizen he was honorable, prompt and true to every engagement; as a man he held the honor and esteem of all classes of people, of all creeds and political proclivities; as a husband and father he was a model worthy of all imitation; unassuming in his manner, sincere in his friendship, steadfast and unswerving in his loyalty to the right. Throughout his career of continued and far-reaching usefulness his duties were performed with the greatest care, and during a long life his personal honor and integrity were without blemish."

SAMUEL THOMAS LEONARD.

Many of the early settlers of Illinois came from Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, and other southern states and their descendants are now among the leading people of the state. The Leonard family of Virginia were pioneers of Illinois, and Samuel T. Leonard is a worthy descendant of that family. He was born on a farm near Illiopolis, Sangamon county, this state, November 10, 1868, a son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Foster) Leonard. His father was born August 23, 1833, in Roanoke county, Virginia, where he grew to manhood, receiving a good education in the common schools. He came to Sangamon county, Illinois, with an older brother, John Leonard, and they settled near Mechanicsburg, where they broke the prairie with a wooden plow and several yoke of oxen. John Leonard was possessed of a land warrant and secured a tract of land near Illiopolis, where he obtained one hundred and sixty acres at one dollar and a quarter an acre. This land at that time was covered so deeply with water that the corners could be designated only by willow trees and bushes. Here the brothers built a cabin and for a time the father of our subject made his home there. John Leonard developed the farm and resided there until a few years before his death, when he removed to Illiopolis. The old farm is still in the possession of the family. Samuel Leonard was married February 25, 1864, to Elizabeth Foster, a native of Kentucky, who came to Macon county when she was twelve or thirteen years of age and was reared on a farm in Niantic township. He farmed for a time on land near the county line between Macon and Sangamon counties, but finally traded this land for a farm near Niantic, and after he had developed the new property, he traded it for another farm in Niantic township, which later he exchanged for two hundred and eighty-nine acres on sections 12 and 13, Harristown township, where he located in 1880. This land cost him about sixty-five dollars an acre, and was well improved, having a handsome residence of ten or twelve rooms in which he lived until he retired to the village of Harristown where he departed this life on the 28th of April, 1901. He was a man of great energy and was always highly respected by his friends and neighbors. In politics he was a democrat, and as an ambitious and persevering farmer, his life work was essentially a success. His wife was greatly loved by all who knew her, and her death January 31, 1906, was the occasion

of profound regret. Of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Leonard, six grew to maturity: George William, now living on Ewing avenue in Decatur; James Gideon, who lives on a farm near Harristown; Samuel Thomas, the subject of this review; Luther A., now a resident of Spokane, Washington; Cotna Ann, now Mrs. John Helphenstine, living on a farm in Harristown township; and Harvey K., a sketch of whom appears in this work.

Samuel T. Leonard was reared in Macon county and received his education in the common schools. At twenty-three years of age he went to St. Louis and entered the Wabash Commercial School, where he studied bookkeeping and telegraphy. Returning home the following summer, he resumed farming, in which he has ever since continued, operating for fourteen years upon rented land owned by his father and also by a Mr. Cross. In the settlement of the family estate he receives one hundred and five acres of land in section 13, Harristown township, and also thirty-six acres at Wyckle Station on the interurban electric line.

On February 14, 1894, Mr. Leonard was united in marriage to Miss Mary Florence Cross, who was born February 4, 1878, and is a daughter of William and Eliza Helen (Teeguarden) Cross of this county. Mrs. Leonard received a good common-school education, and has been a constant support and encouragement to her husband. Three children have been born to them: Nova Maria, born February 10, 1895, who early gave evidence of unusual musical talent, and is now a teacher of music; Elizabeth Helen, born November 13, 1896; and Leo Eugene, born September 25, 1903.

Mr. Leonard has been a lifelong democrat and cast his first ballot in 1892 for Grover Cleveland. He is a member of the school board, and in 1894 was selected as assessor of his township. He holds membership in the Christian church, while his wife and daughters are identified with the Methodist church. Their home is one of the attractive centers in the neighborhood, and is the abode of peace and harmony. As the head of a happy family, the owner of a productive farm and a man who is respected by all who know him, Mr. Leonard occupies an enviable position; but in the opinion of his friends, it is a position he has fairly earned.

CHARLES ASH.

Charles Ash, who is well known as a farmer, stock-raiser and breeder of pure bred Hereford cattle in Macon county, was born in this county, July 3, 1871, a son of Josephus and Mary (Powell) Ash. His father is still living in Harristown, this county. The subject of this review grew to manhood on the home farm and was educated in the district schools, also taking a course of six months in a business college at Decatur. From his early years he evinced a decided inclination toward farming and he has always been a great lover of farm animals, which is an important feature in the success of any man who devotes his life to agriculture and stock-raising. He continued with his father until twenty-one years of age and then, desiring to become independent, he began farming for himself upon his father's land. In 1894 he rented land on section

3, Harristown township, which a year later he purchased at seventy-five dollars per acre, and he is now the owner of a highly improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres. In 1909 he erected upon his farm a modern residence, thirty-two by forty-eight feet and two stories high with basement. The building is heated with hot water and is well furnished, being provided with all modern conveniences, so that he and his family enjoy one of the most comfortable and attractive homes in this region. In 1894 Mr. Ash began the breeding of pure bred Hereford cattle, starting with one cow. By careful discrimination and rare judgment he has attained great success in his undertakings and now has upon his farm a herd of seventy-one pure bred Herefords and has built up an established reputation as one of the leading breeders of Herefords in the state.

In 1894 Mr. Ash was united in marriage to Miss Susan E. Smith, of Harristown township, who was born in Sangamon county, Illinois, April 28, 1876, a daughter of Lawson H. and Caroline M. (Bell) Smith. Five children have been born to them: Emery, who died in infancy; Martha C., born June 11, 1897; Mabel F., born May 10, 1902; and Marie and Mary, born May 20, 1906.

Mr. Ash has been an adherent of the republican party since he arrived at voting age and cast his first presidential ballot in 1892 for Benjamin H. Harrison. He is an active member of the Christian church and for a number of years has served on the board of trustees, and in all his transactions he is governed by a desire to deal justly and to give value for value received.

JOSEPH F. ESKRIDGE.

On the long list of those who with patriotic spirit, responding to the country's call for troops, donned the blue uniform and marched under the folds of the starry banner to the nation's defense in the Civil war, appears the name of Joseph F. Eskridge. He was but a boy in years when he enlisted but his loyalty was no less than that of many a man of twice his age. After the war he settled down to the pursuits of peace and a quiet, honorable life gained him the confidence and good-will of his fellowmen and brought him to a period when he could retire from business and enjoy the fruits of his former toil.

He was born in Sussex county, Delaware, on the 8th of August, 1844, a son of J. F. Eskridge, who in the year 1847 removed to Piqua, Ohio, where the family home was maintained for about five years. On the 14th of October, 1852, however, they journeyed westward with Moultrie county, Illinois, as their destination. In the party were the parents, two sons and two daughters. The town of Lovington in which they settled was a very small and unimportant place, its chief point of interest being the old Black Horse Tavern or hotel. In March, 1853, the family removed to what was known as the old Andrew Foster farm in that county about a mile and a half northwest of Lovington. There they continued until 1858 and in 1859 they removed to Bates county, Missouri. They did not like the location, however, and on the 15th of September, 1860, they returned to Illinois, settling at Stringtown, Moultrie county.

In the meantime Joseph F. Eskridge had pursued his education in the different localities as a public-school student and had also been trained to habits of

MR. AND MRS. J. F. ESKRIDGE

industry, economy and diligence, assisting his father through the performance of many duties in the hours that were not devoted to his studies. He was still in his teens when he offered his services to the government, enlisting as a member of the One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. With that command he went to the front and participated in a number of important engagements in which his regiment took part. He never faltered in the face of danger and as the years passed on made for himself a creditable record as a loyal defender of the old flag.

After the war Mr. Eskridge took up farming on his own account and made it his life work. He became the owner of one hundred and forty acres of valuable and productive land in Fulton county, Illinois, near Farmington, and the cultivation and development of that property brought him a good financial return.

Mr. Eskridge was married twice. He first wedded Miss N. J. Martin, August 18, 1867, and unto them were born four children: Elmer, who married Ellen Forman and has four children; John, who married Martha Seaman and has four children; Frank, who married Ella Phillips; and one now deceased. The mother of these children died April 25, 1880. On the 3d of October, 1883, Mr. Eskridge was again married, his second union being with Carrie E. Wilcox, who still survives him. She is a daughter of J. Q. and Sarah (Ellsworth) Wilcox, natives of Delaware and Ohio respectively. Her father died January 19, 1909, but her mother is still living at the age of eighty-three years and makes her home in Indianapolis. Mrs. Eskridge was born in Mackinaw, Illinois, in 1859.

The death of Mr. Eskridge occurred on the 26th of August, 1909, when he had reached the age of sixty-five years. He was a member of the Methodist church and his life was in harmony with his professions. He always attempted to follow closely the golden rule and was respected by all who knew him because of his fidelity to honorable, manly principles. Mrs. Eskridge now makes her home in Decatur, where she has lived for seven years, her present residence being at 1725 North Morgan street.

CHARLES E. WARD.

Charles E. Ward, whose increasing trade indicates his business ability and spirit of unfaltering enterprise, is now proprietor of one of the leading wholesale fruit and grocery establishments of Decatur, and his example indicates what may be accomplished when earnest purpose and laudable ambition lead the way. He was born near Huntington, Indiana, June 30, 1867, a son of William B. and Sarah A. (Morrow) Ward, the former a native of Indiana and the latter of Ohio. The father passed away at Bement, Illinois, September 13, 1910, where he was associated with one of his sons in the conduct of a grocery business that had been established by Charles E. Ward. The Ward family comes of Scotch-Irish ancestry and the grandfather was one of the prominent practicing physicians of Bloomington, Indiana, at an early day.

Charles E. Ward pursued his education in the public and high schools of Bement, Illinois, to the age of seventeen years, when he accepted a position as clerk in a grocery store, there remaining until 1888. Undoubtedly one of the strongest elements in his success is the fact that he has always continued in the line in which he embarked as a young tradesman. In the year mentioned he started in business on his own account with a cash capital of one hundred and twenty dollars, which he had saved from his salary as a clerk. He was successful from the beginning and he increased his stock to meet the rapidly growing demands of his trade, becoming proprietor of one of the leading establishments of Bement. He also extended the scope of his activities by opening a branch store at Hammond, Illinois. At length his health began to fail and he sold his store at Bement to his father and brother. He then went upon the road as a traveling salesman with the Proctor & Gamble Soap Company, spending four months in this way. When feeling that his improved health would permit him to again conduct a store, he purchased the fruit business of J. Y. Chisholm & Company of Decatur. This was in November, 1900. Success attended him in the new undertaking and in order to have a larger location for his increased business he bought out Harpstrite & Company, who were conducting a similar business and combined the two houses. His trade shows a substantial annual increase and in order to take care of his extensive patronage he erected the present handsome and modern business block at Nos. 700-710 East Cerro Gordo street. This was completed in June, 1907. It is a three story structure fifty by one hundred and twenty-five feet and is well stocked with a large line of fresh fruit, fancy groceries and specialties, cigars and tobacco, which are sold to the country and city trade. He employs twenty people, including four salesmen, and is himself a hard worker who pays close and strict attention to his business, in which he is making substantial progress, bringing him a very gratifying annual income.

On the 15th of September, 1892, Mr. Ward was married to Miss Naomi Deitch, of Indianapolis, Indiana, a daughter of Joseph and Rachel (Mullikin) Deitch, who were of French ancestry. They were natives of Indiana and the father was a well known and prosperous business man of Indianapolis. His death occurred in 1879. His widow still resides in that city. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Ward have been born two sons: Joseph L., now a high-school student; and William D. They own and occupy a modern and attractive home at No. 775 West Macon street and Mr. Ward also owns other city real estate and is financially interested in two of the Decatur banks. He is likewise a director of the Polar Ice & Storage Company and his business enterprises and property interests indicate the success which has crowned his labors, making him one of the leading business men of the city. He is resourceful and energetic and carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes. His well formulated plans are based upon sound judgment and keen discrimination and constitute the basis of his growing prosperity.

Mr. Ward is prominent and popular in fraternal circles. He belongs to Bement Lodge, No. 365, A. F. & A. M., and has also taken the degrees of the chapter and commandery in Masonry. He likewise belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp and to the Tribe of Ben Hur. His political allegiance is usually

given to the republican party although he votes for the candidate rather than for party and his religious faith is that of the Christian church. His life is actuated by high and honorable purposes and throughout his business career he has displayed many sterling qualities and characteristics which have commanded for him the high regard, good-will and confidence of all with whom he has been associated.

HUGH W. HOUSUM.

A native son of Decatur, where he has so directed his labors that he has won signal success, Mr. Housum was born March 25, 1878, his parents being Charles P. and Eliza J. (King) Housum, natives of Ohio and Mississippi respectively. The father came to this city when a young man immediately following the close of the Civil war, and the mother came in her girlhood with her parents. They were married in Decatur and here established their home, but the mother died in 1890 and the father is now living in Orlando, Orange county, Florida. He was long connected with the business life of this city, having for twenty years or more been a member of the firm of H. W. Hill & Company, manufacturers of hog ringers, through which association he became widely known in manufacturing circles. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and has a very wide acquaintance in Decatur, where his social qualities and public spirit, as well as his business activity, brought him prominence. He was an active member of the old Volunteer Firemen's Association and also a veteran of the Civil war, serving throughout the period of hostilities as a member of Company A, One Hundred and Tenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. His life therefore in its various phases of activity has been a most useful one and at all times has commanded the respect of his fellowmen.

Hugh W. Housum spent his youthful days in his parents' home, acquiring his education in the public and high schools of Decatur to the time of his graduation with the class of 1895. He then entered Brown's Business College and was graduated in 1896. In the meantime he had determined to make the practice of law his life work and to this end he began reading in the office and under the direction of Judge William C. Johns, whom he also served as a stenographer. A year later his brother, Joseph Housum, became associated with Judge Johns. After two years this partnership was dissolved but Hugh W. Housum remained with his original preceptor until 1900, when he entered the office of Judge Hugh Crea, under whom he pursued his studies, also serving as law clerk, until he passed the bar examination and was admitted to practice on the 9th of December, 1902. Prior to his admission he served for two terms as court reporter under Judge Edward P. Vail and his service as law clerk and reporter gave him much knowledge concerning the practical workings of the courts. He has been admitted to practice in the United States district and circuit courts and has been associated in the work of his profession with Hugh Crea since his admisson to the bar. Although one of the younger representatives of the legal fraternity, he by

no means occupies an obscure position but is rather found in the foremost ranks of the successful lawyers, for his ability was soon demonstrated and much important clientage has been accorded him.

On the 5th of September, 1900, Mr. Housum was married to Miss Anna Pauline Reinstorf, of Decatur, and they now have two children, Hugh Crea and Margaret Ruth. Mr. Housum and his wife are members of the Episcopal church and he is serving as a member of its vestry. He belongs to Decatur Lodge, No. 401, B. P. O. E., and also to the Country Club of Decatur and gives his political support to the republican party. In the field which he has chosen he is making steady progress, resulting from his understanding and utilization of the fact that in no profession is a career more open to talent than in the practice of the law. Preparing his cases with great thoroughness, he presents his cause clearly, concisely and forcibly and already the court records record many favorable verdicts that he has won.

JOHN C. LEE.

A vigilant and attentive observer of men and measures, John C. Lee has wide general knowledge to serve as a factor in professional success, and since coming to the bar he has established a most enviable reputation for thorough understanding of the principles of jurisprudence and ability to accurately apply the points at law to the points in litigation. A farm in Whitmore township, Macon county, was the birthplace of John C. Lee, whose natal day was February 16, 1868. His parents, John and Ann (Ward) Lee, were both natives of Ireland and in early manhood and womanhood crossed the Atlantic to the United States. They were married in New Jersey and during their residence there one child was born to them. Subsequently they came west to Illinois, settling in Morgan county, where the father engaged in farming for a number of years. In 1867 he removed to Macon county with his family, settling on a farm in Whitmore township, where he and his wife resided until they were called to their final rest, the death of Mr. Lee occurring February 14, 1904, while his wife passed away September 11, 1892. The republican party received his political endorsement and he was so zealous and earnest in its support that he became an active factor in its local councils and filled some of the local offices. Both he and his wife were communicants of the Catholic church.

Upon the home farm John C. Lee was reared, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. His education was acquired in the district schools. Subsequently he engaged in teaching for four years in the district schools of Macon county and while in his twentieth year took up the study of law under the preceptorship of his uncle, Thomas Lee, while later he continued his reading in the office of McDonald & LeForgee of Decatur. He pursued his law studies during the summer months and in the winter seasons engaged in teaching until after his admission to the bar on the 19th of November, 1891. Through the succeeding winter he continued to teach and in the spring of 1892 he opened a law office in Decatur, where six months later he

formed a partnership with C. C. LeForgee and for five years practiced under the firm name of LeForgee & Lee. At the end of that time he became a partner of David Hutchison, with whom he was associated for two years under the firm title of Hutchison & Lee. He afterward practiced independently for five years and was then associated with W. J. Dickinson for two years as Dickinson & Lee. Since that time he has been alone in practice and enjoys the reputation of being one of the foremost barristers of Decatur. He does not specialize in any particular department but continues in the general practice of law, wherein he has steadily progressed since his admission to the bar. An earnest manner, marked strength of character, a thorough grasp of the law and the ability to accurately apply its principles, make him an effective and successful advocate.

On the 11th of April, 1891, Mr. Lee was married to Miss Clara B. Bixler, of Macon county, and they now have four children: Ralph L., a graduate of the Decatur high school of the class of 1909; Charles E., who is in his third year in the high school; and Vera I. and Robert E., who are attending the ward school. The parents are members of the Second Presbyterian church and are prominent socially, the hospitality of the best homes of Decatur being freely accorded them. Mr. Lee has attained the Knight Templar degree in Masonry and also holds membership with the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. He belongs to the Macon County Bar Association and in more strictly social lines is connected with the Decatur Club and the Decatur Fishing Club. He has qualities of geniality and cordiality which render him popular and which have gained for him a large circle of warm friends.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS WILLIAMS.

Christopher Columbus Williams is living on the Childs farm and has charge of three hundred and sixty acres of valuable and productive farm land pleasantly and conveniently situated about three miles south of Warrensburg. His methods of tilling the fields are practical and produce good results. He is a native of the neighboring state of Indiana, his birth having occurred in Putnam county on the 19th of December, 1851. His parents were John M. and Nancy (Smith) Williams. The father was a native of Kentucky and on removing northward to Indiana settled in Putnam county, where he lived for a short time. He then went with his family to Iowa, where he spent one winter, after which he took up his abode at North Lancaster in Schuyler county, Missouri. He was there engaged in the grocery business for about nine years, on the expiration of which period he removed to Sangamon county, Illinois, afterward became a resident of Logan county and still later removed to Macon county.

Christopher C. Williams was a lad of about twelve years when the family came to Macon county. He acquired his education in different states as the family removed from one place to another and when a lad of twelve years began working out as a farm hand but when fourteen years of age began working for himself. The first land that he rented was in Logan county. He has since rented different tracts in this state and about ten years ago took up his abode

where he now makes his home, this being prior to the death of Mr. Childs. He had eighty acres of his own in the northern part of Illini township but sold after three years and purchased one hundred and sixty acres adjoining the Childs farm. Later he disposed of that property and came to the farm which he now occupies, his time being devoted to its cultivation. The land is very rich and responds readily to the care and labor which he bestows upon it. In his farm work he is determined and energetic and the years are bringing to him a substantial measure of success.

On the 4th of February, 1877, Mr. Williams was married to Miss Elizabeth Whiteside, a daughter of James and Elizabeth (Pulliam) Whiteside, who came from North Carolina. Her father was born in Rutherford county, that state, and was there educated. In 1859 he came to Illinois, settling in Madison county, while later he became a resident of Logan county. He was one of the early settlers and landowners, his farm comprising one hundred and thirty acres of arable land, which he brought under a high state of cultivation. His death occurred February 20, 1892, and in his demise this community lost a valuable and worthy citizen. In early life he had married Elizabeth, daughter of John Pulliam, and they became the parents of five children, of whom three are yet living: J. Franklin, Louis O. and Mrs. Williams. The second son is married and has six children: Jennie, Sadie, Hilda, Irene, Minnie and Roscoe. Having lost his first wife, Mr. Whiteside was married again, in 1864, his second union being with Mary J. Johnson. He continued a resident of Logan county until his death, which occurred many years later.

Two children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Williams: Rosie, the wife of Otis Beall and the mother of two children, LaVerne and Glenn; and Ida M., the wife of John Lenhart and the mother of one son, Vernon. The family attend the Christian church and Mr. Williams belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp. He has worked earnestly and labored diligently to attain success and in all of his business affairs has enjoyed the confidence and respect of his fellowmen because of his fidelity to high and honorable principles. His life is a busy one, given to the cultivation of three hundred and sixty acres of land, and his name is known throughout the community as that of one who is as loyal in citizenship as he is straightforward in his business affairs.

CYRUS M. IMBODEN.

In Cyrus M. Imboden we have an example of a self-made man, whose life illustrates clearly the fact that success and an honorable name may be won simultaneously and that energy and perseverance are determining factors in the former. A native of Pennsylvania, he was born in 1845, a son of John Imboden, whose birth occurred in Lebanon county, that state. Believing that he might have better opportunities to provide for his family in the middle west, the father removed to Decatur on the 22d of November, 1855, and a month later opened a meat market, doing his own slaughtering and purchasing his own stock. Success attended him from the beginning and his business rapidly increased with the

growth of the city. He continued active in its management until the 1st of April, 1880, when he retired to private life, although the business was continued by his two sons, Cyrus M. and John G. In fact, the business has continued without interruption from 1855 until the present day, covering a period of fifty-five years, and throughout the entire time the location has never been changed. The first shop, however, was a small frame building, twenty by thirty feet, and one story in height. This was afterward replaced by a brick structure and in the early '60s the father built what is known as the Imboden block, at the corner of South Main and Wood streets. It was erected in modern style of architecture, thoroughly equipped as a market and when located in the new building Mr. Imboden's success was greater than ever before.

In early manhood John Imboden was married, in Pennsylvania, to Miss Sarah Mark, also a native of Lebanon county, that state. They had become parents of four children when, in 1855, they journeyed westward by way of Pittsburg, Cleveland and Chicago, to Macon county. Here both father and mother remained until called to their final rest, Mr. Imboden passing away December 31, 1899, while his wife died March 1, 1894, at the age of seventy-five years. Other children were added to the family during their residence in this state until the household numbered nine, of whom the following are yet living. These are: Cyrus M.; Adam H., who is married and is a traveling salesman of Wichita, Kansas; Hiram, who is married and makes his home in the same city, conducting a flouring mill in Wichita; David C., who is engaged in the brokerage business in New York; John G., who is a farmer and stock-dealer of Macon county, carrying on business extensively; and Frank W., a Methodist minister located in Colorado. As members of the First Methodist Episcopal church the parents took a very active part in its work, the father serving as president of the board of trustees for many years and contributing generously of his means to the support of the cause.

Cyrus M. Imboden was a lad of ten years when he accompanied his parents on their westward removal to Decatur and here he continued his education, begun in Ohio, as a pupil in the public schools of this city. He made his initial step in the business world as a clerk, being thus employed by different firms of the city, but when seventeen years of age his military spirit dominated all else and in response to the call of his country, then engaged in civil war, he joined Company F, One Hundred and Fifteenth Illinois Infantry, becoming a private under Captain F. L. Hayes and Colonel Jesse H. Moore. He was on active duty until honorably discharged on the 29th of February, 1864, because of severe wounds which he had sustained in the battle of Chickamauga in September, 1863.

Following his return home and the restoration of his health Mr. Imboden engaged in the grocery business and in other commercial pursuits in connection with his brother Adam until July 6, 1870, when he became a partner in the meat market that his father had established fifteen years before. The firm name was then changed to Imboden & Son and C. M. Imboden has since remained an active factor in the business, which is today the oldest establishment of this kind in Decatur. It has ever been regarded as one of the best markets of the city, for it is his endeavor to give to his patrons meat of good quality, and his fair and honorable dealing has brought to him a well merited patronage.

Mr. Imboden was married on the 9th of August, 1870, to Miss Clara Allison, a daughter of Dr. B. A. and Amanda (Patrick) Allison, natives of Kentucky and Indiana respectively. Their marriage was blessed with seven children, five of whom yet survive: Daisy J., the wife of Ira Fleming, of Crosby, Texas; Sarah, who is a teacher in the public schools of Decatur; Charles A., who is a receiving teller in the Millikin Bank; Benjamin A., also receiving teller with the bank; and Susanna, the wife of Ralph Tenney of Decatur.

The family attend the First Methodist Episcopal church, which Mr. Imboden joined at the age of fourteen years and to which he has ever been most loyal. He has served as church steward and in other offices and his efforts have been of marked value to the church as factors in its progress, growth and influence. He has never sought nor desired political office or honors, however, although in the '80s he served for two terms as assistant supervisor and is now serving as city treasurer of Decatur. He votes with the Republican party and his support thereof is the result of careful consideration of the questions and issues involved. He is well known in Masonic circles, having attained the Knights Templar degree in Beaumanoir Commandery. For fifty-five years he has been a resident of Decatur and there are few more familiar with the history of the city. Moreover, his entire life has been in close conformity with the highest principles of honorable manhood and progressive citizenship, and the name of Cyrus M. Imboden is only spoken of in Decatur in terms of respect and confidence.

CHARLES H. HEINLE.

The life record of Charles H. Heinle shows what can be accomplished through diligence and determined purpose. As some one has expressed it "vim and vigor means victory," and this finds exemplification in the life of Charles H. Heinle, one of the active and progressive farmers and stock-raisers of Friends Creek township, living on section 12, where he owns and cultivates a farm of two hundred acres.

He is a native son of Macon county, having been born February 22, 1878, on the farm where he now resides. He is a brother of Samuel, Lewis and Fred Heinle, all of whom are mentioned in this volume. He is the youngest and was reared upon the home farm until the father's death. He then inherited eighty acres of the old place and afterward bought one hundred and twenty acres adjoining. His farm today is one of the well improved properties of the county. He has recently erected a large barn upon the place and has a comfortable modern residence, heated with furnace, supplied with hot and cold water and lighted by gas. Other modern equipments are also features of this attractive home. The farm work, too, is carried on along progressive lines and the latest improved machinery is used to facilitate the work of the fields. He likewise makes a specialty of raising good grades of horses and hogs and his live-stock interests constitute an important branch of his business.

On the 6th of January, 1904, Mr. Heinle was married in Argenta to Miss Clara Edwards, who was born in Illinois and was reared in De Witt county.

CHARLES H. HEINLE AND FAMILY

She is a daughter of William Edwards, now a resident of that county. Mr. and Mrs. Heinle have one son, Kenneth Vernelle. The parents are members of the United Brethren church, loyal to its teachings and generous in its support. Mr. Heinle belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and gives his political allegiance to the democratic party but has never sought nor desired office. Having spent his entire life in this county, his record is well known to friends and neighbors, and that he enjoys the high regard and good-will of those with whom he has come in contact in an indication that his life has been well spent.

JOSEPH P. FERRY.

Joseph P. Ferry is now a retired farmer who for about sixteen years has lived in Warrensburg, enjoying here the fruits of his former toil in an income which is derived from five valuable farming properties lying in Austin township. His present financial condition is in marked contrast to his financial standing at the time he came to the middle west, for he was then the possessor of two dollars as his entire cash capital. He was born in France on the 30th of June, 1835, and is a son of Joseph and Clara (Marshall) Ferry. The father was a stone mason by trade and never left his native land to become a resident of another country. He was, however, a soldier in the French army, and with his regiment went to Africa during one of the wars which the French waged on that continent. It was subsequent to this time that he took up the stone mason's trade, which he followed throughout his remaining days in France, where both he and his wife passed away.

Joseph P. Ferry was educated in the schools of France and was about twenty years of age when he came to the United States. He had heard very favorable reports concerning America as the land of almost limitless opportunity and, hoping to benefit by a change of residence, he sailed for New Orleans. From that point he made his way up the Mississippi and Illinois rivers to Peoria, and then to LaSalle county, where he engaged in farming. The year 1856 witnessed his arrival in Macon county, where he also turned his attention to general agricultural pursuits. He had but two dollars when he reached America, but he possessed what is better still—courage, determination and ambition. Carefully saving his earnings, he at length secured a sum sufficient to enable him to buy forty acres at twelve and a half dollars per acre. This constituted the nucleus of his present extensive possessions, and he is today one of the largest landowners of the county. From time to time, as opportunity has offered, he has purchased land until he is now the owner of five farms in Austin township, comprising about five hundred acres of very rich and productive land. All this is under a high state of cultivation and brings to him a substantial annual income. He has recently erected a new business block in Warrensburg, which he rents and which is one of the finest business properties of the town. About sixteen years ago he retired from the active work of the farm and removed to Warrensburg, where he has since lived, resting in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil save for the management which he gives to his property interests.

On the 7th of September, 1864, Mr. Ferry was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Jane Haywood, a daughter of Jonas and Ann (Harrison) Haywood, representatives of an old English family who originally lived in the vicinity of Manchester, England. Mr. and Mrs. Haywood on coming to America first settled in Austin township, Macon county, where they lived for a number of years, but afterward removed to Iowa. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Ferry have been born the following children: Clara, who is the wife of Elias Haller and had five children —Joseph, Grace, Ruth, Kenneth and one who died in infancy; Albert, who married Lou Janvrin and has three children—Howard, Mabel and Lawrence; Emma, who is now the wife of Joe Davis and has four children—Vonna, Cassius, Carrie and Hazel; James, who married Ethel Walker and has a son, Earl; and Frank, who married Cora Stennett and has three children—Leta, Dorothy and Joseph. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ferry also had three children who died in infancy.

The family belong to the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mr. Ferry has long been a faithful representative, and in the church he is now serving as an elder. His life has been guided by its teachings and has ever been in close conformity to its principles. While he has been very successful in business, over the record of his business career there falls no shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil. His prosperity has been gained in the legitimate channels of trade, and his example of success should serve to inspire and encourage others, showing what may be accomplished when one has the will to dare and to do. He has now passed the seventy-fifth milestone on life's journey, and is one of the most highly respected among the venerable citizens of Macon county.

JAMES M. DODD.

A man's reputation is the property of the world. The laws of nature have forbidden isolation. Every human being submits to the controlling influence of others or, as a master spirit, wields a power either for good or evil on the masses of mankind. There can be no impropriety in justly scanning the acts of any man as they affect his public and business relations. From among the ranks of prominent citizens of Decatur—prominent on account of political service as well as his business success—there is no one more deserving of mention in a volume of this character than James M. Dodd, whose capability, efficiency and loyalty in public office constitute an example well worthy of emulation in this day when so much is heard about trickery and dishonesty among those in public life. James M. Dodd was born in New Albany, Indiana, September 11, 1851, a son of Thomas S. and Lucy M. (Mitchell) Dodd, the former a native of Missouri and the latter of Indiana. For a long period they were residents of New Albany, where both passed away. The father entered the steamboat service when twenty-one years of age and became one of the best known pilots on the river between St. Louis and New Orleans. He took great pride in his calling and continued in active service until about two years prior to his death. While upon the river he became acquainted with many of the great men of the country, who visited

him in the pilot house as they were going up and down the Mississippi. He died on the 15th of May, 1896, at the age of seventy-two years, his birth having occurred in 1824. His wife, who was born March 6, 1833, died November 15, 1910, when seventy-eight years of age.

James M. Dodd acquired a public-school education during the period of his youth, which was spent in his parents' home. As a boy it was his one ambition to enter the river service and had it not been for the outbreak of the Civil war his life record would probably have been very different from that which is here recorded; but because of the hostilities between the two sections of the country and the consequent danger to any who were upon the river, his parents refused to allow him to take up the calling of his father and at the age of fourteen years he accepted a position as delivery clerk in the postoffice at New Albany. After serving in that capacity for two years he secured a position in the office of an undertaker in his home town, served an apprenticeship and remained with his employer for six years. That was prior to the time when the science of embalming had come into use and all bodies were preserved by packing in ice. In 1880 Mr. Dodd came to Decatur and for three years was retail salesman for the queensware house of E. D. Bartholomew & Company. On the expiration of that period he was promoted to the position of stock man for both the wholesale and retail departments of the business, in which position he served for seven and a half years, so that his connection with that house covered altogether ten and a half years. His close confinement at his work, however, undermined his health and he resigned his position. The two years thereafter were spent in rest and recuperation and through the succeeding two years he engaged in the real-estate business—more, however, as a diversion than in the hope of gain.

Interested from early boyhood in the political situation of the country and the vital questions of the day, he has always been more or less active in politics and in 1893 he was elected to the city council of Decatur from the third ward on the republican ticket. He had never been an office seeker and was nominated and elected at this time through the wishes and influence of his friends. He filled the position for two years and while serving in that capacity was waited upon by many of the republicans and asked to become the nominee for county clerk. He consented and was elected in 1894. That his course in office was highly commendable and satisfactory to the general public is indicated in the fact that in 1898 he was reelected to the office by the largest majority ever given a republican candidate in Macon county. In 1902 he was once more chosen for that position without opposition and the public has ever freely acknowledged the fact of their indebtedness to him for bringing the work of the office to the highest degree of efficiency and perfection ever known in the period of its existence. After three terms' service, covering twelve years, he retired from the position as he had entered it—with the confidence and good will of all concerned.

Following his return to private life in 1906, Mr. Dodd engaged in the undertaking business in Decatur and has since been successfully identified with that business through the intervening period of four years. He has a well appointed establishment and is accorded a liberal patronage.

On the 10th of June, 1870, Mr. Dodd was united in marriage to Miss Addie R. Daniels, of New Albany, who died on the 29th of June, 1908, leaving two

sons, Frank S. and Earl B. The former, bearing the reputation of being "one of the finest young business men of Decatur," is now manager of the Decatur Herald. The younger son, a licensed embalmer, has attained high skill in his profession and is associated with his father in business. He has been a student in four schools of embalming and has thoroughly mastered the science. On the 30th of December, 1909, Mr. Dodd was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Ida B. Vigus, the widow of D. Vigus, of Decatur.

Prominent in the fraternal circles of the city, Mr. Dodd belongs to Chevalier Bayard Lodge, No. 189, K. P., is a charter member of the Modern Woodmen Camp, No. 144, and is also connected with the Loyal Americans, the Modern Americans, the Knights and Ladies of Security, the Red Men and the Decatur Club. He and his wife and his two sons are members of the First Methodist Episcopal church. He is one of the best known residents of Decatur and socially is much esteemed. Warm-hearted and genial, he has drawn about him a circle of devoted friends.

LOUIS A. MILLS.

While the practice of law chiefly occupies the attention of Louis A. Mills, he is also well known because of his connection with important and successful business enterprises of Decatur and because of his prominence in Masonic circles. Illinois numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred in Putnam county on the 15th of October, 1864. His father, Joseph Mills, was a native of Pennsylvania, where he resided until 1845, when he started westward with Illinois as his destination. He secured a tract of land in Putnam county and for many years was identified with its agricultural interests, capably and successfully managing the affairs of the farm. He wedded Mary E. Merritt, and at his death, in 1884, when forty-three years of age, left a widow and six children, namely: Jessie L.; Louis A.; Mary Arvilla; Mabel, the wife of S. E. Walker, of Decatur; Elizabeth, the wife of O. W. Dawson, of Decatur; and Maud, the wife of C. F. Parker, of Julesburg, Colorado.

The early experiences of Louis A. Mills were those of the farm and his boyhood training made him familiar with the work of field and meadow. Even when in school he aided daily in performing the chores and other light labor of the farm and thus came to realize the value of industry, enterprise and perseverance. After mastering the branches of learning taught in the rural schools, he attended the Decatur high school and subsequently had the benefit of instruction in Lincoln University, thus becoming well equipped by broad literary knowledge for the practical and responsible duties of life. He lived for a time in Decatur and then went to South Dakota to look after his father's interests in that state, for it was there that his father's death occurred, Joseph Mills having made considerable investment in property in that district. The profession of law, however, attracted him and upon his return to Decatur he began reading in the law office of Isaac R. and Andrew H. Mills, who were practicing under the firm style of Mills Brothers. He closely applied himself to his studies and in

1890 successfully passed the required examination that secured him admission to the bar. That his former preceptors were appreciative of his ability and believed that he would make a valued addition to the firm is indicated by the fact that he was taken into a partnership. Three years later he became a partner in the Columbia Manufacturing Company and on the 1st of May, 1896, he joined J. R. Fitzgerald in a law partnership. Mr. Mills has since continued in the general practice of law and his ability in this connection won him rank with the prominent lawyers of the city. The care and precision with whch he prepares his cases, the thoroughness with which he grasps every point of an argument and the clearness and cogency with which he presents his cases have all been factors in winning for him the success which he has enjoyed as a practicing attorney of Decatur. In 1898 he was made assignee for the Farmers Bank and closed up its affairs. He owns some farm land and also has general supervision of several other properties. He has always taken an active interest in the drainage affairs of the county and is a director of the Decatur free public library.

Mr. Mills was married in 1889 to Miss Anna Hill, a granddaughter of H. W. Hill, by whom she was reared. Three children have been born of this union, Margaret, Walker H. and Anna Louise. Mr. Mills is prominent in Masonic circles with which he has been identified since 1896, when he was raised to the Master's degree in Macon Lodge, No. 8, F. & A. M. He also belongs to Macon Chapter, No. 21, R. A. M., Beaumanoir Commandery, No. 9, K. T.; and Peoria Consistory, A. A. S. R. He is now grand junior warden in the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Illinois and in the regular order of succession in that body it is probable that Mr. Mills will be grand commander from this state at the triennial conclave in 1916. If this comes it will be an honor well merited, for no one is more devoted to the order and its high principles. He has a very wide and favorable acquaintance in Masonic circles and in Decatur, where he has lived so many years, he is regarded as a popular and highly respected citizen as well as an able and progressive lawyer.

HARVEY K. LEONARD.

Harvey K. Leonard, a promising young business man of Macon county and agent for the Illinois Traction System at Harristown, was born on a farm in Harristown township, March 17, 1884. He is a son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Foster) Leonard, the father a native of Roanoke county, Virginia, and the mother of Adair county, Kentucky. Samuel Leonard came to Sangamon county, Illinois, in 1850, when he was seventeen years of age, and two years later, at the age of nine years, Elizabeth Foster arrived in the same county with her parents. There the young people grew up and after their marriage came to Macon county about 1864 and Mr. Leonard purchased land on sections 12 and 13, Harristown township, becoming the owner in 1880 of a farm of four hundred and ten acres, which he purchased at sixty-five dollars per acre. His wife departed this life in 1906 and he was again married. He was called away in

1909 and he and the mother of our subject were both buried in Harristown cemetery. They were the parents of six children: George W., now living in Decatur; James G., living on the old homestead; Samuel T., who is the owner of ninety-nine acres of the old homestead; Luther A., now a bookkeeper for the Power & Light Company, of Spokane, Washington; Cotna A., now Mrs. John L. Helphinstine, living on the Leonard homestead; and Harvey K., the subject of this review.

Harvey K. Leonard grew up upon the home farm and attended the district schools, where he was an apt scholar, and evinced a fondness for books which led him to further investigations in the educational field. He was a student at Millikin University for two years, at the end of which time he spent ten weeks at Brown's Business College, in Decatur, and completed his business training at Draughon's Business College of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, graduating with high honors from that institution in the class of 1908. Returning to Decatur, Mr. Leonard entered the freight office of the Illinois Traction system as cashier and at the end of four months was made baggageman for the system, and after nine months of that position he was advanced to the position of agent at Harristown. Mr. Leonard inherited eighty acres of land from the family estate, which he disposed of at one hundred and eighty dollars per acre. He has purchased sixty-three acres at two hundred dollars an acre in Harristown township, which he proposes to improve in the spring of 1911, being a strong believer in the agricultural possibilities of this region.

On November 24, 1909, Mr. Leonard was united in marriage to Miss Irene Ellen Joynt, who was born on a farm near Latham, Logan county, this state, July 21, 1888. She is a daughter of John J. and Eliza O. (Whiteside) Joynt, the father a well known farmer of this region.

Mr. Leonard was reared a democrat and cast his first presidential ballot for William Jennings Bryan and still adheres to the democratic party. He and his estimable wife are earnest and consistent members of the Christian church. Although he is quite a young man, he has already made a fair start in the business world and by his pleasing manner and straightforward methods has won the respect of the entire community.

HENRY J. FLACH.

Henry J. Flach, busily engaged in farming in Illini township, his place being pleasantly located not far from Decatur, was born in Germany on the 18th of September, 1875, and is a son of Andrew and Louisa (Brown) Flach. Some years later the family left their little German home and crossed the Atlantic to the new world, making their way first to St. Louis, while subsequently they removed to Marissa, Illinois. There the father first rented land but as soon as his labors had brought him sufficient capital he purchased a farm, upon which he spent his remaining days. He labored untiringly to develop and improve it and his industry and diligence were manifest in the excellent appearance of his fields. Unto him and his wife were born six children: Fred, who is now living

in Franklin county, Illinois; Henry J., of this review; August L., a resident of St. Louis; William G., of Franklin county; Andrew R., also of Franklin county; and Louise J., of Macon county. The parents have passed away, the mother in the year 1901, and the father in 1905.

Henry J. Flach, who was but a young lad when the family came to Illinois, pursued his education in the district schools of St. Clair county, which he attended through the winter seasons, while in the summer months he worked upon the farm, doing the chores in early boyhood and later performing such service in the fields as his age and strength permitted. Thus gradually he became familiar with all departments of farm labor and when his school days were over he took up farming in Franklin county with his father and also worked as a farm hand for others.

On the 14th of April, 1910, Mr. Flach was united in marriage to Miss Lois M. Harper, a daughter of Oscar and Julia (Crickman) Harper. They attend the Lutheran church and are well known in the locality where they now reside. The farm which Mr. Flach is operating is only a short distance from Decatur, so that the advantages of city life are easily obtainable and at the same time they can enjoy the freedom and liberty of a rural existence. Mr. Flach has ever worked hard and persistently and whatever success he has achieved is attributable entirely to his own labors.

LOUIS CHODAT, SR.

Among the prominent business men of Decatur may be named Louis Chodat, Sr., the head of the leading book and stationery store of the city, and for twenty years past actively identified with this community. He was born in Moutier, Switzerland, September 18, 1843, and is a son of August and Catharine Chodat, also natives of Switzerland. The father was engaged in merchandising.

The subject of this review received his education in the schools of Moutier and after laying his books aside became an apprentice in a banking house and there continued for twenty-eight years, passing through various positions until he became one of the proprietors of the bank. The institution was first known under the title of Klaye & Derosche, but later the firm was designated as Klaye, Chodat & Company, and also operated a branch bank at Delemont, Switzerland. The business grew to large proportions, but in 1888 the concern suffered great financial losses and Mr. Chodat, now forty-five years of age, found himself almost penniless. However, he was born of a sturdy stock and possessed a brave heart, feeling confident that somewhere in the world better fortune awaited. In this emergency the land of the stars and stripes presented inducements that Mr. Chodat could find no where else in the world and so he came to America to start all over again in his business career.

He arrived in Decatur in August, 1888, a stranger among strangers, and unable to speak a word of the English language. Taking advantage of the first opening that presented, he and his son, Louis, Jr., then fourteen years of age, began selling German periodicals and later sold American newspapers on the streets. In 1890 Mr. Chodat opened a little news stand on Merchant street

and his first day's sales amounted to seventeen cents. Under his energetic management the newspaper sales grew rapidly and he became a general agent for all of the leading papers. Subsequently he established a book store and gave up the newspaper business and is now associated with his sons in one of the most flourishing book and stationery stores in this part of the state. Earlier in his career in Decatur he worked three hundred and sixty-five days each year, but the time has now arrived when he can enjoy himself in comfort and ease, as he has secured a competency. He is the owner of a beautiful home at No. 444 Ewing avenue, which is one of the results of his intelligent business management.

In 1870 Mr. Chodat was united in marriage to Miss Louise Chodat, who departed this life in April, 1909. Three children were born of this union: Mrs. Minnie Denz, of Decatur; Louis, Jr., and Jean N. Both of the sons are in active partnership with their father and have assisted him from the beginning in his business in this city. They are members of the Decatur Club. Mr. Chodat has prospered in America and he has no reason to regret his selection of Decatur as a home. Here he has made many friends by his excellent business ability, his gentlemanly address and by those qualities of heart and mind that count for most in worthy citizenship.

ISAAC TUGGLE.

A self-educated and self-made man, Isaac Tuggle is today general manager of the C. J. Off farms of Macon county, comprising twenty-two hundred acres in Austin and Illini townships. He has gained recognition as one of the most able and enterprising agriculturists of this part of the state and deserves much credit for what he has accomplished, for in youth he was denied many of the privileges and advantages which most boys enjoy. He is one of Kentucky's native sons, his birth having occurred in Wayne county on the 17th of October, 1866. His parents were Henry and Julia (Hurt) Tuggle. The father was born in Virginia and afterward became a resident of Kentucky. His parents were Henry and Tempa (Bertram) Tuggle, the former a farmer and preacher, who was born in Germany but was reared in Virginia. Removing from that state, he became one of the first settlers of Kentucky, making the journey to that district with the Boone colony. He settled on the Kentucky river at a place which was called Boonesboro and was active in the pioneer development of that region. He lived there at a time when the Indians were a constant menace to the white settlers and when all the men had to go armed as they performed their work in the fields.

Henry Tuggle was but a youth when the family removed from the Old Dominion to Kentucky and there amid all of the wild conditions of frontier life he was reared. He lived in Kentucky for a long period but afterward came to Illinois, being the first of the family to seek a home in this state.

Isaac Tuggle attended the country schools but his entire attendance at school would only cover about a year. His opportunities and advantages in youth were extremely limited but real merit and ability will come to the front

ISAAC TUGGLE

anywhere and in course of years Mr. Tuggle has proven his right to be ranked with the most prominent and representative agriculturists of Macon county. He worked upon his father's farm to the age of twenty-two years and then started out in business for himself, devoting two years to farming in Macon county, after which he left that locality and removed to Sangamon county. He spent five years there and in February, 1889, came to the place where he now resides. In earlier years corn sold for ten cents per bushel and other crops were almost equally low. He at first had but two hundred and forty acres of land but the third year had charge of three hundred and sixty acres. He kept leasing more and more land until he was in charge of seven hundred and thirty acres. Then he took up all of the land belonging to C. J. Off and has been general manager for seventeen years. The C. J. Off Company owns an extensive canning factory in Peoria, and Mr. Off is also widely and prominently known as a wholesale groceryman there. In his present position Mr. Tuggle has the management of twenty-two hundred acres of rich and productive farm land. The work of the place is carefully systematized, competent help is employed and everything goes along smoothly, owing to the watchfulness and careful direction of Mr. Tuggle. He has raised every year about twenty hundred head of hogs and was formerly engaged in raising cattle but now keeps upon the place only enough cattle for his own use.

Mr. Tuggle has been married twice. He first wedded Amanda Smith and they had one child, Mary, who is now the wife of Ed Wilt and has three children, Arthur, Lucy and Beulah. For his second wife Mr. Tuggle chose Ida Carson, formerly of Wayne county, Illinois. They have seven children: Vena, who is now the wife of Alva Major and has two children, Mildred and Ida B.; James and Charles, who assist their father in his farming operations; Goldie, at home; Hazel; Marjorie; and Stanley.

The parents are members of the Christian church and are widely and favorably known not only in Illini township and Warrensburg but throughout the county. The extent of Mr. Tuggle's business interests has brought him a wide acquaintance and wherever he is known he is held in high esteem by reason of his genuine worth and many admirable traits of character, as well as his excellent business ability. He has learned valuable lessons in the school of experience and is today a practical, enterprising business man, whose efforts are far-reaching in their scope, while their wisdom is demonstrated in the success which has come to him.

LOUIS S. BONSTEEL.

Louis S. Bonsteel, who since 1903 has conducted a general contracting business in Decatur and has become firmly established as a progressive business man and citizen, was born in Boston, Massachusetts, January 5, 1863, a son of Dr. T. S. and E. (Greenleaf) Eaton. The father was a native of Massachusetts and a practicing physician of Boston. The ancestry of the family is traced back in direct line to Thomas Eaton, who landed at Boston in 1628. He was a member of the Plymouth colony and of Puritan stock. There were five Eatons,

three brothers in one family and two brothers in another, who came with this colony to the new world and their male descendants in America numbered eleven hundred at the time of the Revolution. Members of the family were participants in the Boston tea party and in many events which shaped the colonial and later history of the new world.

Dr. Eaton, the father of him whose name introduces this review, was born in 1838. After the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted in the Union army in April, 1862, becoming a surgeon in the Thirty-fifth Massachusetts Volunteer infantry. He was killed at the battle of Antietam in September, 1862, four months before the birth of his son Louis. In 1865 the mother became the wife of Dr. A. S. Bonsteel and our subject was christened under his stepfather's name and adopted that name, never knowing his own father. Dr. Bonsteel died at Corry, Pennsylvania, in 1887, the family having removed to that place after the war. The mother is now living there at the age of sixty-seven years. Dr. Bonsteel was a native of the state of New York and came of a family of noble Holland ancestry, the name being originally Von Stahl. Two brothers, Nicholas and Ludwig Von Stahl, crossed the Atlantic to Rhode Island in 1728. Two uncles of Dr. Bonsteel drove overland from Rhode Island to South Dakota with ox teams and prairie schooner in the early '40s, and the town of Bonesteel in that state was named in their honor. In 1876 one of them returned east on a visit, being at the time ninety-seven years of age and on that occasion took his first ride on a railroad train. The family is distinguished for longevity. The youngest member in the family dying a natural death was the grandmother of Louis S. Bonsteel, who passed away at the age of sixty-nine. A number of others had lived to between the ages of ninety and one hundred years. Some well known and distinguished people have been related to the family. Daniel Webster married a sister of Mr. Bonsteel's paternal grandfather; Ezra Cornell, the founder of Cornell University and at one time governor of New York, was related to the family on the maternal side; the grandmother of Judge Lindsey, judge of the juvenile court of Colorado, was a Greenleaf; and John Greenleaf Whittier, the celebrated New England poet, was a descendant of the Greenleafs who came to Boston from England in 1636.

The mother of Louis S. Bonsteel removed to New York during the Civil war and in 1872 went to Pennsylvania, where the son was educated in the public and high schools and also in Allegheny College of Meadville, Pennsylvania, where he pursued a classical course. After completing his education he was identified with mechanical pursuits in different parts of the country and in 1903 came to Decatur, where he established a general contracting business, in which he has been successful from the beginning. He has erected the Bijou theater, St. Mary's chapel and many of the fine residences of the city and his time is fully occupied by the demands that are made upon it in the conduct of a growing and profitable business. He is greatly interested in the progress of Decatur and his motto is "patronize home industries whenever possible," thus promoting the business development and progress of the community. In 1905 he formed a partnership with H. C. Wire, also a practical mechanic, and the liberal patronage accorded them indicates their high standing in building circles.

On the 2d of November, 1893, Mr. Bonsteel was married to Miss Alma C. Huskey, of Taylorville, Illinois, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Huskey, now deceased. They were natives of Tennessee and pioneers of this section, where they became interested in farming pursuits but later lived retired. Mr. and Mrs. Bonsteel became the parents of three sons: Richard E., whose birth occurred on the 2d of December, 1895; Philip Courtney, who was born September 23, 1901; and Louis S., whose natal day was May 13, 1904.

Mr. Bonsteel belongs to Ionic Lodge, No. 312, A. F. & A. M.; Macon Chapter, No. 21, R. A. M.; and Beaumanoir Commandery, No. 9, K. T.; and to the Modern Woodmen camp; while his political allegiance is given to the republican party. His worth as a man and citizen is widely acknowledged, while his progressive spirit has led him into important relations with building operations in Decatur. He has never feared to venture where favoring opportunity has led the way and in all of his business career he has held to no false standards but has based his principles upon the rules which govern untiring industry and strict and unswerving integrity.

LEANDER N. COPE.

Leander N. Cope, occupying a leading position among the contractors and builders of Decatur, where he has operated as senior partner of the firm of Cope & McDonald, was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, May 8, 1851, and in 1857 was brought to Illinois by his parents who settled in Olney. His father, Isaac P. Cope, was born January 2, 1824, and was a descendant of Oliver Cope, the progenitor of the family in America, who came to Pennsylvania with William Penn and was of Quaker faith. Isaac P. Cope followed the occupation of farming as a life work but put aside all business and personal considerations at the time of the Civil war and served for three years and three months as a member of the Twenty-first Illinois Regiment of Volunteer Infantry, being mustered out at Louisville, Kentucky, at the close of hostilities. His wife was born in 1826, and they are still residents of Olney, where Mr. Cope is now living retired. He holds membership with the Grand Army of the Republic.

Following the removal of the family to Olney, Leander N. Cope entered the public schools of that city and passed through consecutive grades until at the age of sixteen years he put aside his text-books and learned the trade of bricklaying, which he followed until 1872, when he began business on his own account as a brick contractor. He remained in Olney for a decade thereafter and in 1882 came to Decatur, where he continued in the same line of business, joining his brother in a partnership under the firm style of Cope Brothers. This relation was maintained until 1895 and Leander Cope became partner of Frank Jahr, with whom he was associated until 1907. In that year he formed a partnership with Hugh J. McDonald, a practical carpenter, under the firm name of Cope & McDonald. He has been identified with many important building operations in the city. He had the contract for the erection of the Central Church of Christ, built a large addition to St. Mary's Hospital and has been called to other locali-

ties as a representative of the trade. He built the Ford county courthouse, the jail of Champaign county, the jail and courthouse in Warren county, Indiana, the library building at Watseka, Illinois, a school building at Colfax, Illinois, the Young Women's Christian Association building at Decatur and is now engaged on the construction of the new high school building of Decatur, which is one of the largest high schools of this part of the state. He also built the courthouse at Salem, Illinois and numerous residences and business houses in this and other cities. His work has been of a most important character and his patronage has constantly increased in volume and importance, indicating his high standing in the field of business which he has chosen as his life work.

On the 22d of November, 1876, Mr. Cope was married to Miss Martha Gaskin, of Bridgeport, Illinois, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gaskin, who were natives of Ohio. Her father was a miller and died in 1860. The family came Illinois during the period of the Civil war and Mrs. Gaskin remained in this state until her death in 1901. Four children have been born unto Mr. and Mrs. Cope: George E., born October 5, 1879; Jesse B., November 22, 1881; Roy E., March 15, 1885; and Edith.

In his political views Mr. Cope has always been a republican since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and for one term he represented the third ward on the board of city aldermen but has always preferred to leave office holding to others, feeling that his business affairs fully occupy his time and attention. He belongs to the Odd Fellows lodge at Decatur and to the Sons of Veterans, and in those organizations has many friends. He resides at No. 646 West Macon street, where he owns a good home, and he and his wife are well known in the city, where they have many friends. Mr. Cope has resided here continuously since 1882, or for a period of more than twenty-eight years, and has made for himself a most creditable name and position in building circles, his labors proving not only an element of personal success but also a feature in the substantial improvement of the city.

CHARLES C. NYE.

Charles C. Nye, a highly respected and representative farmer, is living on the Mora Ritchie farm about four miles south of Warrensburg, where he has one hundred and sixty-five acres of land highly cultivated and splendidly improved according to the most modern agricultural methods. Almost his entire life has been spent in Macon county, although he was born upon a farm near Stockton in San Joaquin county, California. His parents were Jones and Lucy (Lynch) Nye. The father was born in the year 1832 and was living in Wooster, Ohio, when he started for California. He was one of the '49ers that went across the plains, being at the time but seventeen years of age. He experienced the usual hardships and privations incident to the long journey across the prairies of the Mississippi valley and the arid plains and mountain ranges farther west. He remained a resident of California for a number of years and in 1859 Lucy Lynch also went to the Pacific coast, traveling by the Fort

Leavenworth route. They were married in that state and continued residents of California until 1865, when they returned by way of the Panama route to New York. Subsequently they took up their abode in Illinois and are now living with their son Charles.

While born in the far west, Charles C. Nye has spent the greater part of his life in Macon county and has made farming his chief occupation. In his youthful days he attended the common schools and later went to the State University at Champaign, pursuing a course in the classics. His education completed, he took up farming again and in tilling the soil and in caring for the crops he has displayed good business ability and unfaltering energy. His methods are practical and also progressive. He quickly adopts any new idea which his judgment sanctions as of value in promoting the work of the farm and he now has a well developed property, on which are substantial buildings, while the latest improved machinery is used to facilitate the work of the fields.

In 1883 Mr. Nye was united in marriage to Miss Fannie L. Knapp, a daughter of Charles and Nancy J. (Parks) Knapp. They are the parents of four children: Frances Catherine, who supplemented her public-school education by two years' study of art in Millikin University; Charles Arthur, who is a graduate of the State University of Illinois; and Linn Jones, who is attending the Decatur high school; and Ralph, who died in infancy.

The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are very prominent in all church work. Mr. Nye likewise belongs to the Masonic lodge and has served on the school board. He is interested in all that has bearing upon the welfare and upbuilding of the community and the advancement of its best interests and gives hearty support to any movement for the general good. He has a wide acquaintance in this county, where he has so long resided and the fact that many of his stanchest friends are those who have known him from his boyhood to the present is an indication that his life has ever been an honorable and upright one.

JOHN NEWTON ORR.

John Newton Orr, who has lived retired in Decatur for the past two years, owning a fine modern residence at No. 1631 North Water street, was engaged in agricultural pursuits in Macon county throughout his active business career and still supervises his extensive farming interests in Friends Creek township. His birth occurred in Coshocton county, Ohio, on the 11th of January, 1858, his parents being Joseph and Lorinda (Darling) Orr. He is of Scotch-Irish descent on the paternal side, while his ancestors in the maternal line came from Virginia.

Joseph Orr, the father of John Newton Orr, was born in Wilmington, Delaware, in 1829. In 1876 he came from Ohio to Macon county, Illinois, purchasing and locating upon a partially improved farm in Friends Creek township. There he successfully carried on his agricultural interests until the time of his retirement, erecting good buildings and otherwise improving the property. On putting aside the active work of the fields he took up his abode in the town of

Argenta, where he lived in honorable retirement until called to his final rest in February, 1905. The period of his residence in Macon county covered three decades and he gained an extensive and favorable acquaintance within its borders. His wife, who survived him for two years, passed away on the 24th of November, 1907. They were the parents of two children, namely: Mrs. John Bricker, of Argenta; and John Newton, of this review.

The last named, who was a lad of about eighteen years when brought to this county by his parents, obtained his early education in the district schools of Ohio and the high school at Warsaw. He taught for six years in the country schools in Friends Creek township, Macon county. Throughout his active business career he was busily engaged in the work of the fields, owning and cultivating lands in sections 22, 26 and 25, township 18, range 3. In 1908, having acquired a handsome competence by reason of his well directed labor and capable management, he removed to Decatur, where he has since lived retired in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. He still supervises his extensive farming interests, however, and derives therefrom a gratifying annual income.

Mr. Orr has been married twice. He first wedded Miss Mary E. Crawford, of Coshocton, Ohio, who died in 1894, and after her demise married Miss Emma Love, who died in 1910. He has two children, Mattie L. and Edna B. by his first marriage.

While residing on his farm Mr. Orr served as supervisor for two terms, being elected to that position on the republican ticket. He has also acted as school director for a number of years, the cause of education ever finding in him a warm friend. In religious faith he is a Presbyterian, while fraternally he is identified with the Masons at Argenta. His life has been well spent and all who know him entertain for him warm regard by reason of the fact that he has made good use of his opportunities and has always been fair and honorable in his relations with his fellowmen.

WALTER ROY MAJOR.

Walter Roy Major is one of the younger representatives of farming interests in Macon county, whose ability, however, is proven in his success. He is now renting two hundred and forty acres of fine farm land about two and a half miles from Harristown. He was born in Woodford county, Illinois, near Peoria, on the 5th of April, 1881, and is a son of Joseph and Mary (Jones) Major. His grandfather, Benjamin Major, came from Kentucky to Illinois, being the first of the family to establish a home in this state. He became one of the early settlers of Woodford county and for a long period was closely associated with its agricultural interests. He was also widely and favorably known there as a leading and influential citizen. His son, Joseph Major, was born in Woodford county upon the farm which he still owns. Throughout his entire business life he devoted his attention and energies to tilling the soil and raising stock and as the years passed by gained a creditable measure of success, which enabled him about three years ago to retire from active business with

a competence sufficient to meet all his needs and requirements throughout his remaining days. He is now making his home in Eureka, enjoying the fruits of his former toil.

W. Roy Major, spending his youthful days in his parents' home, pursued his education in the schools of Eureka, where he passed through consecutive grades until he became a high-school student. He afterward attended Eureka College for one year and later went to Quincy, Illinois, where he was enrolled as a student in the Gem City Business College. His course there well qualified him for the active duties of life and with a liberal education he returned home. During all of this period when not engrossed with the duties of the schoolroom, he worked for his father upon the home farm. He was only nineteen years of age when he began to rent land from his father. The tract of course was small but in tilling it he developed the energy and ambition which have ever been among his salient and admirable characteristics. From the start he has won success and about three years ago he took up his abode upon the farm of two hundred and forty acres which his father had purchased about eight years ago. He is carefully and systematically improving and cultivating this place and the wisdom of his judgment and the value of his practical methods are shown in the excellent appearance of the place.

In October, 1905, Mr. Major was married to Miss Pauline Pruessie, whose people were from Wisconsin. They now have one son, Joseph. The parents are rapidly winning a large circle of warm friends in this locality, where they are regarded as citizens of sterling worth. Mr. Major's influence is always cast on the side of justice and truth. He is leading a busy life in the cultivation of an excellent farm of two hundred and forty acres and he is now giving some attention to stock-raising. Although he has been a resident of the county for but a brief period he has become firmly established as a representative agriculturist of this district.

ABSALOM H. DRYSDALE.

Absalom H. Drysdale, well known in connection with the automobile business in Decatur, was born July 21, 1869, in Gibson county, Indiana, a son of Calvin and Rebecca (Lasher) Drysdale, both of whom are now deceased. Following the removal of the family to Moultrie county, Illinois, the son pursued his education in the public schools of that county and about twenty years ago became a student in Brown's Business College of Decatur, at which time he remained in the city for two years. On the expiration of that period he went to Princeton, Indiana, where he became agent for the United States and the Adams Express Companies, which he thus represented for seven years, He returned to Decatur six years ago and soon afterward engaged in the automobile business. He now owns the largest garage in the city and is agent for the following well known cars: the Buick, Matheson, Corbin, Welch and Franklin, all of which are machines of good make and for which he finds a ready sale. In connection with the garage a well appointed repair department is conducted and his business is liberally patronized.

On the 6th of February, 1908, in Springfield, Illinois, Mr. Drysdale was married to Miss Jennie Phipps, and they have a pleasant home in Decatur, where they have gained many friends. Mr. Drysdale belongs to the Fraternal Order of Eagles and his political support is given to the republican party. He keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day but does not seek nor desire public office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs, in which connection he is making steady progress.

JOHN E. NICHOLS.

John E. Nichols, methodical and systematic in all of his business affairs, recognizing in his life and work the fact that perseverance, energy and thorough understanding are the elements of success, is one of the leading insurance men of Decatur, now acting as general manager for the Manhattan Life Insurance Company for Illinois, outside of Chicago. The city of his residence is also the place of his birth. He was born August 23, 1863, and is a representative of one of the old families of New York.

His father, Charles Nichols, was born in Rochester, that state, and the year 1858 witnessed his arrival in Decatur, after which he devoted his attention to general farming in Decatur township and also to the purchase of horses for the government. He remained a resident here for about twenty-seven years and in 1885 established his home in Boxbutte county, Nebraska, where he soon became a prominent and influential citizen. He filled the position of postmaster there during President Cleveland's first administration and was also chosen judge of Boxbutte county. While in Decatur he became a charter member of Macon Lodge, No. 8, A. F. & A. M., and his entire life was in harmony with the teachings of the craft concerning mutual helpfulness and brotherly kindness. He died January 30, 1898, having long survived his wife, who passed away in 1863. Mrs. Nichols bore the maiden name of Alzina Braden and was a daughter of J. Y. and Laura (Hunting) Braden, the former a native of Tennessee, while the latter was born in Vermont and was of New England ancestry. During the pioneer epoch in the development of Macon county J. Y. Braden established his home here and was closely associated with the work of progress and upbuilding for a number of years.

As indicated, John E. Nichols is a representative of two of the old families of this city. He was an only child and spent his youthful days under the parental roof, supplementing his early education, acquired in the public schools of Decatur, by a course in a business college at St. Joseph, Missouri, and also by study in the Rockport Seminary, from which he was graduated with the class of 1883. For a few years thereafter he devoted his time to the profession of teaching, which he followed in Macon and Piatt counties in the decade between 1880 and 1890. In 1889, however, he had become identified with the Manhattan Life Insurance Company as agent and acted in that capacity until the 8th of May, 1899, when he was made manager for the state of Illinois, outside of Chicago, with headquarters at Decatur. This position he has since filled,

J. E. NICHOLS

building up an extensive business for the company. The year 1910 has been the most successful one since he entered the insurance field, the total for the first nine months of the year being one-half million dollars. He has several agents under his supervision and carefully supervises their work, at the same time diligently devoting himself to the major duties that devolve upon him as manager. Several years ago Mr. Nichols was sued by a former agent for twelve hundred dollars, which he claimed was due. He retained the Hon. William E. Nelson as attorney for the plaintiff. Mr. Nichols made the proposition that both parties lay their evidence before Judge Nelson and let him be attorney, judge and jury. The plaintiff declined to leave the matter to his own lawyer with the result that he suffered disastrous defeat in the circuit court of Macon county. This illustrates clearly the confidence and esteem in which Judge Nelson is held by one who has known him throughout his entire life. It also indicates clearly Mr. Nichols' own desire for absolute justice in business affairs. His integrity in business circles stands above question.

On the 28th of November, 1889, Mr. Nichols was united in marriage to Miss Bertie E. Sutton, a daughter of T. L. and Elizabeth Sutton, of Pike county, Illinois. They became parents of four daughters: Ollie Fay, Mae, Hazel E. and Vivian. On the 6th of June, 1904, Mr. Nichols wedded Miss Mabel Buchen, of Moweaqua, Illinois, and unto them has been born a son, Charles E.

Mr. Nichols maintains membership in Cisco Lodge, No. 599, I. O. O. F. His early political allegiance was given to the democratic party but as his views were not in harmony with the free silver platform of 1896 he joined the ranks of the republican party, which he has since supported to a considerable extent, although he is largely independent, casting his ballot as his judgment dictates. He is a popular citizen, whose social, genial nature has won him many friends, while the sterling traits of his character enable him to retain the friendship that is once accorded him.

THOMAS DELANEY.

In all the broadness of the Mississippi valley there is to be found no land richer or more productive than in Macon county and one of the excellent farm properties which are a source of pride to the county is in the possession of Thomas Delaney—a highly cultivated place of one hundred and sixty acres about a mile and a half southeast of Warrensburg. His entire life has been spent in Illinois. He was born near Peoria, on the 11th of August, 1851, and is a son of John and Johanna (Corcoran) Delaney. The father was a native of Ireland and on crossing the Atlantic settled in New York. He was also in Canada for a time and subsequently lived in Vermont. After coming to Illinois he took up his abode in Knox county and the year 1862 witnessed his arrival in Macon county, where his remaining days were passed, his death occurring in 1879. His life was devoted to farming and with the usual experiences that come to the farm lad Thomas Delaney spent his boyhood and youth. His education was acquired in the district schools of Knox county and when not busy

with his text-books his time was devoted to tilling the soil and cultivating the crops. He is both a farmer and mechanic, possessing much natural ability along the latter line. This enables him to keep everything about his place in excellent condition and his farm presents a most attractive appearance.

It was on the 22d of October, 1885, that Mr. Delaney was united in marriage to Miss Bridget Powers, and unto them have been born six children, as follows: May J., who completed her education by attending Millikin University of Decatur; John W., who has recently finished school and intends to rent a farm and start in life on his own account; Joe, who aids in carrying on the home farm; Charles Leonard and Francis V., both of whom are in school; and Catharine H., who completes the family.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church and they attend services in Decatur. Mr. Delaney has led a busy and useful life, in which there have been few leisure or idle hours. He has ever worked diligently and persistently to gain a start and provide a comfortable living for his family. As the years have passed by he has prospered and the proof of his life of intelligently directed activity is found in his ownership of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of arable and productive land. He works untiringly in the fields in order to make his farm productive and as the years have gone by his crops have returned him a substantial annual income. He may truly be called a self-made man, for he has been both the architect and builder of his own fortunes.

ARCHER T. DAVIS.

Archer Tiffan Davis, who has been successfully engaged in the drug business at Decatur for the past sixteen years, is a representative in the paternal and maternal lines of two of the most prominent pioneer families of Macon county. He was born on a farm in this county on the 20th of September, 1874, being the youngest son of Amos T. and Mary A. (Myers) Davis. His paternal grandparents, Isaac and Mary (Brown) Davis, both of whom were natives of Ross county, Ohio, removed to Pike county, Illinois, in 1834. There Isaac Davis followed farming until his removal to Perry, Pike county, where he was engaged in merchandising for several years. Subsequently he spent a short time in Logan county and then came to Macon county, living retired in the village of Mount Zion until called to his final rest. Unto him and his wife were born six children, of whom Amos T. Davis was the fourth in order of birth and the youngest of the sons.

Amos T. Davis, the father of our subject, is now one of the two surviving members of his father's family, his sister being Mary E., who makes her home in Mount Zion. His birth occurred in Ross county, Ohio, in 1831 and he was therefore but three years old when taken to Pike county, Illinois, by his parents in 1834. The year 1852 witnessed his arrival in Macon county. In 1855 he crossed the plains to California in search of gold, returning to this county in 1858 and settling in Long Creek township. In association with his brother, Edward R., he purchased one hundred and seventy acres of land on sections 34 and 35

and they were successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits until the latter's removal to Missouri. On the 14th of March, 1860, Amos T. Davis was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary A. Myers, whose birth occurred in Macon county in July, 1839. The wedding ceremony was performed by the Rev. Hiram Buck (now deceased) and took place at the old Long Creek church, which has since been destroyed by fire and has been replaced by a new edifice.

Abraham Myers, the maternal great-grandfather of Archer T. Davis, emigrated from Germany to South Carolina and thence went to Kentucky, where his demise occurred. He had a brother who was killed at Fort Moultrie during the Revolutionary war, while one of his sons lost his life in an Indian raid in Missouri. Jacob Myers, a son of Abraham Myers and the grandfather of the gentleman whose name introduces this review, was born in Daviess county, Kentucky, in 1802. Although his school privileges were quite limited, he acquired a good practical education through business experience and contact with the world. In 1829 he began journeying westward on horseback and at the end of six weeks arrived at his destination in Macon county, Illinois. He settled on section 35, Long Creek township, in the midst of an unbroken wilderness, and entered eighty acres of land from the government on section 36. There he erected a log cabin which is still standing—a mute reminder of pioneer days. In November, 1836, he entered another eighty-acre tract on section 31 and as his financial resources increased, he made additional purchase until at the time of his death his property holdings embraced one thousand acres of rich and productive land on sections 34, 35 and 36, Long Creek and Mount Zion townships. It was in 1854 that he was called to the home beyond. In the year 1832, in the state of Kentucky, he had wedded Miss Elizabeth Wood, who was a native of that state and who accompanied her parents on their removal to Moultrie county, Illinois. She passed away in 1846. The record of her children is as follows: Joseph, who was killed in a railroad accident at Long Creek, Illinois; John A., who is likewise deceased; Mary A., the wife of Amos T. Davis, of Decatur, and the mother of our subject; James W., deceased, who served throughout the Civil war as a member of the Twentieth Illinois Infantry; and Sarah C., who died when a maiden of sixteen years. Following the death of his first wife Jacob Myers married Mrs. Melinda (Widick) White, a native of Christian county. Their union was blessed with a daughter, Nancy L., who died in Decatur. Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Myers were both faithful and earnest members of the Methodist church. The former gave his political allegiance to the democratic party. Michael Myers, a brother of Jacob Myers, was the first grand juryman in Macon county. The first marriage in Long Creek township was that of Bailey Myers and Jane Black.

Amos T. and Mary A. (Myers) Davis, lived on a farm in the vicinity of Long Creek for twenty-six years. In 1886 the former put aside the active work of the fields and removed to Decatur, where he and his wife have since lived in honorable retirement. They were the parents of six children, as follows: H. B., of Decatur; H. F., a resident of Colby, Kansas; Archer T., of this review; Mrs. Frank McBride, living in Decatur; Lulu, who passed away in 1883; and Edith, who died in 1885. Mr. and Mrs. Amos T. Davis celebrated their golden wedding on the 14th of March, 1910, at their home at No. 537 West Macon street in

Decatur. Many gifts of gold were presented to them by their children, relatives and friends and the occasion was a most happy one. Among the guests present were the following: Charles Davis, of Columbia, Missouri; Isaac Davis, now deceased; Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Sprague, of Bement; Miss Mary E. Davis; Mrs. E. R. Davis, of Springfield; Dr. J. C. Willits, the pastor of the church of which Mr. and Mrs. Amos T. Davis are members; and Mrs. M. A. Buck, the widow of the Rev. Hiram Buck, who performed the marriage ceremony.

Amos T. Davis is a democrat in politics and while living on his farm served as supervisor of Long Creek township during the years 1872, 1873, 1877 and 1879. He is a Master Mason and has been identified with the fraternity for fifty-seven years. Both he and his wife have been members of the First Methodist Episcopal church for more than half a century and have always been numbered among its active and faithful workers. The latter, who joined the church when a maiden of fifteen years, has been continuously connected therewith for fifty-six years. Mr. and Mrs. Amos T. Davis are among the best known and highly esteemed residents of Macon county and deserve prominent mention in a work of this character.

Archer T. Davis, whose name introduces this review, obtained his education in the graded and high schools of Decatur, being graduated in 1894. The following year he pursued a course of study in the National Institute of Pharmacy at Chicago. In 1896 he embarked in business as a druggist, opening a store on the southeast corner of Oakland avenue and West Main street—opposite the Anna B. Millikin Home and one door east of his present location at No. 1099 West Main street. He carries a large and well selected line of drugs and druggists' sundries and enjoys a most gratifying patronage. His store is equipped with an up-to-date soda fountain and is a popular resort with the students of James Millikin University. A genial, courteous and obliging gentleman, he has won many friends among the students, who help make his enterprise a profitable one.

In Sullivan, Illinois, Mr. Davis was united in marriage to Miss Lucinda Whitfield, of Moultrie county, her father being Zachariah B. Whitfield, who is deceased. Their home has been blessed with two children, Charlotte and Dorothy, who are ten and eight years of age, respectively. Mr. and Mrs. Davis are members of the First Methodist Episcopal church and own a modern home in one of the "beauty spots" of the city, their address being No. 448 Powers Lane.

MARTIN V. LONERGAN, M. D.

For fifteen years Dr. Martin V. Lonergan was a representative of the medical profession in Decatur, during which period he gave ample proof of ability that carried him beyond the ranks of mediocrity, winning him recognition as one of the most able and successful general practitioners of the city. He was extremely careful in diagnosing a case and his judgment was seldom if ever at fault in foreseeing the outcome. He wisely used his time and talents for the benefit of mankind and at the same time gained from his labors the substantial success which is the legitimate and merited reward of all effort.

A native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Dr. Lonergan was born February 4, 1852, and came of Irish ancestry. His father, Michael Lonergan, was born in County Waterford, Ireland, and learned the carpenter's trade before leaving his native land as a young man to seek a home in America. He located in Philadelphia, where he formed the acquaintance of Miss Margaret Donahue, who was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, and who had come to this country with her parents, with whom she remained until she gave her hand in marriage to Michael Lonergan. In 1856 they removed with their family to Illinois and Mr. Lonergan carried on carpentering in Jacksonville until 1870, when he sold his business and property interests there and turned his attention to farming in Sangamon county, his remaining days being given to agricultural pursuits. For eighteen years he resided in that county and then at the age of seventy was called to the home beyond. He held membership in the Catholic church and in politics was an earnest democrat. His family numbered six children: Martin; John, who resides upon the home farm; Maurice; Maggie; and two who are deceased.

Dr. Lonergan was a little lad of but four years when he came with his parents to Illinois. At the usual age he began his education in the schools of Jacksonville, which he attended until fourteen years of age, when he started in business life as an employe in a store in that city. Realizing, however, the need and value of an education, he afterward resumed his studies in the Whipple Academy and later pursued a course in Brown's Commercial College. The evening hours were devoted to study, the day to the duties of the store. In this way his education became such as to qualify him for teaching and for five years he followed that profession in Sangamon county. This, however, proved but an initial step to further labor, for he began reading medicine in the office of Dr. David Prince, of Jacksonville, while still engaged in teaching. In further preparation for the practice of medicine he entered the Long Island Hospital College at Brooklyn, New York, and afterward studied for a time in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York city. Post-graduate courses in the Chicago Polyclinic in 1884 and in the New York Polyclinic in 1894, further qualified him for the onerous duties of the profession, upon which the preservation of health and life largely depend. In the latter year he also acted as house physician in the Mothers and Babies Hospital of New York. The strength of his character is indicated in the fact that his own labors provided the means necessary in the attainment of his education. When the funds which he had originally saved were exhausted he again resorted to school teaching to replenish his exchequer. He was graduated in 1877 and through the influence of his roommate, J. A. Dawson, opened an office at Casner, Illinois, in March, 1878.

One of his first patients was Mrs. William Wilson, who subsequently became his mother-in-law. Becoming acquainted with her daughter Mary, they were married on the 14th of November, 1878. Mrs. Lonergan was born and reared in Mount Zion township, Macon county, and unto them were born four children, of whom Bertie died at the age of four years, while John M. passed away at the age of seventeen. Ellis C., who had completed the first year's work in Millikin University, died October 30, 1905, at the age of eighteen years. He was a natural artist, who delighted to do sign writing and cartoon work, and his father still has in his possession a fine specimen of his penmanship in a scene

showing the canals and houses of Venice. It is a perfect reproduction of the original copy and was made while he was attending the Walnut public school. The only surviving child of that marriage is Bertha May, a graduate of the Decatur high school. The wife and mother died on the anniversary of their marriage, November 14, 1901. Dr. Lonergan was again married, November 27, 1902, when Mary E. Dresback became his wife.

On locating at Casner, Illinois, Dr. Lonergan formed a partnership with Dr. Dawson and the relation was maintained until November, 1883. He then practiced alone in Casner until 1895, when he came to Decatur, where he lived until his death. Here he owned a good drug store, which he successfully conducted and at the same time was accorded a liberal patronage in his profession. He was also examining physician for the Equitable and for the New York Life Insurance Companies. Broad reading and investigation kept him in touch with the onward march of the profession. He was quick to adopt any new method or remedial agency which he believed would prove of value in the restoration of health and he had a well equipped office, enabling him to do advance work in his profession. He held membership in the Macon County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. At the time of his death he was a member of the board of health of Decatur.

Fraternally Dr. Lonergan was connected with Ionic Lodge, No. 312, A. F. & A. M.; Macon Chapter, No. 12, R. A. M.; and Decatur Council, No. 21, R. & S. M. He was likewise a member of Casner Lodge, No. 463, I. O. O. F., of which he served as noble grand. His political support was originally given to the democratic party but he could not indorse its attitude upon the money question and later voted with the republican ticket. He believed that local option should settle the temperance question and was himself a strong temperance man who did everything in his power to suppress the sale and use of intoxicants. On many occasions he voted for the men whom he knew would favor the cause of temperance, regarding the use of spirituous liquors as one of the evils of the race. He and his wife held membership in the Second Presbyterian church and were advocates of all measures which tend to uplift humanity or promote the welfare of the community. In all of his work Dr. Lonergan was actuated by conscientious purpose and high and honorable principles, and his close conformity to the ethics of the profession gained for him the high and unqualified regard of his brethren of the medical fraternity. Dr. Lonergan met his death December 31, 1910, by suffocation in a fire in the St. James Hotel in Pana, Illinois.

PRESTON T. HICKS.

Preston T. Hicks, filling the position of county surveyor of Macon county, his home being in Decatur, was born in Warren, Illinois, on the 1st of June, 1871, his parents being William S. and Rosetta Hicks, farming people who came from England to Illinois in 1842 and cast their lot with the pioneer settlers of this state. Their son Preston was educated in the public schools and was graduated from the high school of Warren with the class of 1887. Further educational ad-

vantages were offered him and he pursued a four years' course in civil engineering in the University of Illinois at Champaign, completing the course in 1892. Since leaving college he has devoted his attention to the profession of civil engineering and surveying and during the past five years has been located in Decatur, acting as commissioner of special assessments for the city of Decatur for two years, while in November, 1908, he was elected county surveyor. He has won for himself a favorable reputation throughout central Illinois as a drainage engineer, having in charge during the past two years about forty drainage districts.

During the campaign in the fall of 1908 considerable interest and sentiment was aroused over the newspaper statements that if Mr. Hicks was elected he would win a bride—Miss Frieda R. Ruebsamen, whom he married on the 4th of November, 1908, the day after the election. As county surveyor he has introduced an innovation, highly prized by the people, in the way of a complete record and card-index system, by means of which the maps and record of any particular survey may be referred to at a moment's notice. This is very important to his constituents, as it often saves them the trouble and expense of a new survey. Mr. Hicks believes that the records of his office are just as important and deserve fully as much attention as the deed records. He has proven most capable, prompt, systematic and faithful in office and his course is winning for him high commendation. In his political views he has always been a republican since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. His fraternal relations are with the Masons and the Knights of Pythias and in both orders he is held in high esteem as a worthy representative of the basic principles of the societies.

BERT WELSH.

Bert Welsh, for about ten years engaged in farming and now living on the family homestead in Milam township, Macon county, was born in Moultrie county, Illinois, April 16, 1879, a son of Robert and Catharine (Reedy) Welsh. The parents were natives of Ireland and came to America after their marriage, settling in Moultrie county. Later they removed to Shelby county, Illinois, and in 1891 located in this county. In 1906 the father retired to Dalton City and there he departed this life two years later at the age of sixty-eight years. He was a successful farmer, a man of unsullied reputation, and a citizen who contributed to the extent of his ability toward the upbuilding of the county. The mother is now living in Dalton City and is sixty-one years of age. There were eight children in the family, the subject of this review being one of twins.

Educated in the common schools, Bert Welsh was reared under the genial influences of a happy home and he early became familiar with all the details of farm work. About ten years ago he began farming upon his own account and after taking unto himself a life companion he cultivated land in Shelby county, although he still continued to live at the home place. After the retirement of his father he turned his attention to the farm in Milam township, where he now has charge of one hundred sixty-one and one-half acres and cultivates the cereals,

also raising stock for the market. The place is well supplied with good buildings, substantial fences and other appliances necessary to a well regulated farm and is known as one of the most valuable properties in the region.

In 1906 Mr. Welsh was united in marriage to Miss Matilda Doolin, who was born in Piatt county, Illinois, January 4, 1886, and is a daughter of John and Catharine (Bresnahan) Doolin. She is also one of twins and is the youngest of a family of nine children. Two children have brightened the household of Mr. and Mrs. Welsh, Robert L. and Mary C.

Mr. Welsh gives his adherence to the democratic party, believing that its principles are most conducive to the welfare of a free people. He and his wife are earnest members of the Roman Catholic church of Dalton City and are liberal contributors toward the various charities of which it is the dispenser. Mr. Welsh has found in his wife a sympathetic companion who presides over a happy home and has made it a center where friends and acquaintances may always expect a welcome greeting. No young man in Macon county has ever begun life under more favorable circumstances and there is every reason to believe that he has entered upon a career which will prove not only of great benefit to himself and family but to the entire community.

ROBERT BIVANS.

Robert Bivans, a soldier of the Civil war and a farmer and merchant now living retired at No. 965 East Cantrell street, Decatur, was born in Franklin county, Ohio, May 14, 1842, and is the eleventh in order of birth in a family of twelve children. His parents, Thomas and Ann (Gundy) Bivans, died when he was so young that he has very little recollection of them, and after his father's death he made his home with an uncle for a time. He subsequently took up his residence with his grandfather, Josiah Bivans, who removed from Delaware to Ohio in 1810, and during the war of 1812 served as a volunteer soldier, enlisting in Franklin county, Ohio. He was honorably discharged and was given a land warrant from the government about 1856, but this he sold for a small sum of money to Thomas Mourman, who was moving to Washington county, Iowa, and located on a tract of land not far from Washington, now the county seat of that county. Josiah Bivans was a son of Hezekiah Bivans, a native of Wales, who on coming to this country located in Delaware.

Jacob Gundy, the maternal grandfather of our subject, was a soldier of the Revolutionary war. He was born in Pennsylvania, October 13, 1765, of Holland-Dutch parentage, and in middle life removed with his wife and children to Franklin county, Ohio, locating on a farm ten miles southwest of Columbus, where he reared his ten children, five sons and five daughters. He was the first man elected justice of the peace in his locality, now known as Pleasant township, Franklin county, and held that office for many years. His decisions which were recorded by him with a goose quill pen, are now a curiosity, after a lapse of about a hundred years. His wife died on the home farm in 1835

ROBERT BIVANS

MRS. ROBERT BIVANS

and soon after her death he came to Illinois accompanied by all his children with the exception of Mrs. Ann Bivans and Mrs. Polly Yates. He settled on a farm in Vermilion county, about fifteen miles north of Danville, where he passed away September 24, 1845, and was buried in the Gundy cemetery, near Myersville, where his grave is marked by a large block of granite, with the following inscription: "Jacob Gundy, Sen., was born October 13, 1765. Died September 24, 1845. Aged 79 years. Was a Revolutionary Soldier."

The boyhood of our subject was spent on a farm, and he attended a subscription school, where he gained the rudiments of an education. At seventeen years of age he came to Illinois with an uncle, Thomas Gundy, and made his home in Vermilion county for several months, after which he went to Christian county and remained with a brother, Thomas Bivans, for one winter. He began his active career by farming on shares but feeling the need of more education, he attended school for one winter in Macon county, and also in Fulton county. After laying aside his text-books, he again became identified with farming interests and worked by the month until August, 1862, when he enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Fifteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, as a soldier for the Union. The regiment participated in a number of important engagements. Private Bivans was doing detached duty at regimental headquarters, but on September 19, 1863, while the battle of Chickamauga was in progress, he obtained a musket from a wounded soldier of the Fortieth Ohio Regiment, and became an active participant in the fight. On the evening of the following day he was severely wounded in the right elbow and was sent back to the Chattanooga field hospital, remaining there for a number of days and receiving no surgical attention until the next Friday. On the following Monday he was moved across the Tennessee river to another field hospital, and four days later a surgeon reset the bones, and thus saved the arm, although the elbow joint had been shot away. This was one of the remarkable surgical cases of the war, a medical journal of Cincinnati in 1864 reporting four similar cases, although two of the patients died. Our subject was obliged to undergo very great suffering, and his weight fell from one hundred and fifty pounds to one hundred pounds. The operation upon Private Bivans did not prove an entire success, the shattered portions of the bone not having been entirely removed. Erysipelas set in and the physicians thought it extremely doubtful whether he had sufficient strength to carry him through. Just at this time it was necessary to move the hospital to a new location about a mile distant, and the patient was set out in the street, where he was covered with a blanket. The attendants felt quite sure that he would die. However, he revived some time before morning and was carried on a cot to the new hospital. After about a month his appetite began slightly to return and he was sent to a field hospital at Bridgeport, Alabama. When he was being carried into a tent at this place, a surgeon who had some time before suggested an operation upon the arm, happened to pass along but did not recognize the identity of the patient on account of the emaciated appearance of the latter. This surgeon gave orders that special attention should be given to the new arrival. He remained at Bridgeport about six weeks and three furloughs were issued in his name, but his condition was such that he could take no advantage of the first two. Mr.

Bivans has three daguerreotypes which will be preserved as valuable heirlooms by his descendants. The first represents him as he appeared, full of health and energy, when he entered military service, the second as he appeared, with a brother at his side, upon his return, and the third represents the dressing of the wound. He also retains the emergency apparatus in which his arm was suspended. It was cut from a sapling by one of the hospital nurses at the Bridgeport, Alabama, field hospital, and suspended over the shoulder by leather taken from the harness of one of the government mules. This rude sling he was obliged to wear day and night for more than a year. His suffering brought on many complications, causing an abscess which destroyed his left lung. Had not Dr. Enoch W. Moore, former regimental surgeon, tapped his chest, he would not be living today. He received his honorable discharge from the army in 1865, at Quincy, Illinois, and his first work consisted of painting fences and wagons. He was obliged to use his left hand and could earn only fifty cents a day. Later he became a contractor at Macon. By good management he saved money, becoming identified with real-estate interests, and finally erected a building which he rented. However, his arm still troubled him greatly, and twice he was put under the influence of morphine to have it removed but the operation was never completely accomplished. One day while in the drug store with A. W. Biddle, a former comrade, he experienced new pains in his arm and asked Mr. Biddle to assist him in removing a piece of bone from his arm. The wound then began to heal and his suffering came to an end.

In 1869 Mr. Bivans was appointed postmaster of Macon. About the same time he formed a partnership with Mr. Biddle in the drug business, continuing until 1874, when he sold out. In 1871 he and his partner acquired the building in which they carried their drug stock. The same year, on the very day in which the Chicago conflagration was raging, this building with its contents was totally destroyed by fire. There was no insurance, and almost his entire earthly possessions were wiped out of existence. Mr. Biddle put up a new building, but before they resumed business Mr. Bivans stipulated that they should keep no intoxicating liquors in stock, and under this plan the business proved a grand success. In 1873 he traded his property in Macon for a farm in Blue Mound township, but about a year later he bought out a drug and grocery establishment, which he conducted without liquor. In 1876 he sold out and went upon the road as a commercial traveler, but after one and one-half years returned to Macon and began renting land and trading in town property. He also became a stockholder in a canning factory and cultivated sixty acres of tomatoes and fifty-five acres of sweet corn. In this work he was quite successful. For one year he acted as general agent for the Orange-Judd Farmer Company, receiving during this period one hundred and sixty dollars per month. Originally he received a pension of eight dollars a month from the government, and by various acts of congress it was advanced to twelve, fifteen, eighteen and thirty dollars, and he now receives forty-six dollars per month on account of injuries received in the line of duty.

On the 25th day of May, 1871, Mr. Bivans was united in marriage to Miss Flora A. Sweney of Fulton county, this state, a daughter of Major K. and Elizabeth (Ten Brook) Sweney. Two children have blessed the union: Albert

ROBERT BIVANS
Taken at Richmond, Kentucky, December, 1862

THOMAS AND ROBERT BIVANS
Taken at Macon, Illinois, in June, 1864, while home on a furlough

ROBERT BIVANS
Taken at Macon, Illinois, in 1867

Splint made at Bridgeport, Alabama, in February, 1864

Waldo, of La Grange, who married Mary Rockwell and has one son, Kenneth Rockwell Bivans; and Fannie A., who is now a student in the law department of the University of Chicago.

Mr. Bivans cast his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1864. He continued as a supporter of the republican party until 1884, since which time he has been an earnest advocate of prohibition, believing that county local option would solve many of the problems which are now facing the state and the nation. He is a stanch member of the First Methodist Episcopal church, in which he acts as steward and class leader. Socially he affiliates with Lodge No. 467, A. F. & A. M., of South Macon. He was a true soldier in times of danger, and he has been a patriotic citizen, always attempting to perform his duty to his fellowmen. As a result he has gained the respect of a wide circle of friends and acquaintances who admire in him those qualities which contribute most to the upbuilding of worthy character and of good citizenship.

In 1908 Mr. Bivans was the prohibition candidate for state representative from the twenty-eighth senatorial district, comprising the counties of Macon, Logan and De Witt. He made the race for the legislature on the following declaration of principles, which were printed on twenty-eight thousand of his campaign cards: "I am in favor of the extention and strict enforcement of the local option law and for state prohibition as soon as possible; the district primary; initiative and referendum; search and seizure law; abolition of gavel rule; civil service; good roads; and for letting the interested taxpayers vote on the kind of roads they will have and how they will construct them. Public officials should bear in mind that they are servants of the people. I am opposed to accepting free transportation from railroad companies or corporations. I am opposed to allowing Chicago or any other city to annul the laws of the state. The legislature will be the battle ground on the liquor question, and if your candidates do not state publicly how they will vote on county local option and state prohibition, they are not worthy of your support. I am a Civil war veteran, and if elected I will defend your homes and the interests of this district as faithfully as I did the flag at Chickamauga." Mr. Bivans was not elected but according to the election returns, he had the honor of polling the largest vote ever cast in the district for a prohibition party candidate for the legislature although it was a presidential year and party lines were closely drawn.

HENRY DAUT.

Henry Daut, conducting business in Decatur as a florist, in which connection he has secured a liberal and gratifying patronage, was born in this city October 20, 1876. His parents were Jacob and Katherine (Krueck) Daut, both of whom were natives of Bavaria, Germany. The father came to Illinois in 1866, residing in Harrisburg for two years, after which he removed to Henderson, Kentucky, and later went to Baltimore, Maryland, where he worked in the Weber piano factory. He was married in Evanston, Illinois, in 1873. He was living in Chi-

cago during the time of the memorable fire of October, 1871, and continued to make his home in that city until 1874, when he removed to Decatur, where for several years he was employed in the rolling mills. He then began raising garden produce for the market and in the latter part of 1889 also established a florist and nursery business. In this undertaking he was successful and conducted a profitable enterprise for a number of years but at length became ill and in 1899 passed away at the age of sixty years. Later his widow and their two sons conducted the business established by the father, and the mother still makes her home in Decatur.

Henry Daut pursued his education in the public and German Lutheran schools of this city. He was trained to habits of industry, economy and diligence and in his boyhood materially aided his mother in the conduct of the florist and nursery business and in the raising of vegetables. In 1907, however, the estate was divided and since that time Mr. Daut has been alone in the raising of flowers and nursery stock. He is the owner of two acres of land and he conducts both a wholesale and retail business, making large shipments throughout the United States. He has regular customers in New York city, Chicago, Seattle and other points both east and west and the business is now one of the profitable enterprises of this character in Decatur.

On the 29th of November, 1898, Mr. Daut was married to Vlaga Freineck, who was born in Berlin, Germany, April 21, 1876, a daughter of Charles and Augusta Freineck, now farming people of Macon county. She was four years of age when she accompanied her parents on their removal to Pennsylvania and about twenty years ago came to Macon county. Mr. and Mrs. Daut have three children; Mary, Frank and Lucy.

Mr. Daut maintains his residence, greenhouse and nursery at No. 546 West Harrison street. His success is attributable entirely to his capable direction of his business affairs, his sound judgment and close application. He understands the practical and the scientific methods of raising both flowers and nursery stock and that he draws his trade from such a large territory is an indication of the fact that he bears a most substantial business reputation wherever he has become known. In politics he is a republican and in religious faith both he and his wife are Spiritualists.

CECIL M. JACK, M. D.

Among the young medical practitioners of Decatur and Macon county, Dr. Cecil M. Jack may be regarded as peculiarly favored. Possessing every advantage of a classical and professional education and associated in practice with one of the most widely known physicians of central Illinois, he possesses unusual opportunities for attaining an enviable position in his chosen profession. Although he has engaged in practice only since 1902, his conscientious attention to his duties and his intimate acquaintance with the best modern methods have made his name favorably known throughout the region and his best advocates are his patients.

Dr. Jack is a native of Decatur, born November 15, 1876, and is a son of Samuel S. and Josephine (McKee) Jack. He was educated in the public schools of Decatur, graduating from the high school in 1895. He then attended the University of Michigan and was graduated from the literary department in 1899. Having decided to adopt the medical profession, he pursued his studies in the famed medical department of the same university and was graduated with the degree of M. D. in the class of 1902. A postgraduate course in the medical schools and hospitals of New York, London and Vienna, in 1905-6, greatly added to his practical knowledge of medicine and surgery. He has met professionally many of the most noted physicians and surgeons of the world and being a close observer and a constant student, he has been steadily adding to the foundation acquired in earlier years. Since 1906 he has been junior member of the firm of Brown & Jack, a sketch of the senior member, Everett J. Brown, appearing elsewhere in this volume.

Dr. Jack is a member of the American Medical Association, the Illinois State Medical Society and the Decatur Medical Society. He is also a member of the Phi Rho Sigma college fraternity and the Knights of Pythias. On the 11th of June, 1908, he was united in marriage to Miss Charlotte Nelson, of Bloomington, Illinois. The union has been blessed with one daughter, Cecilia. Dr. and Mrs. Jack are members of the First Presbyterian church and their genial social qualities have attracted many friends. It is doubtful whether a happier circle is to be found in the state than that which gathers at this home where refinement and the graces of sympathetic companionship abide. It is entirely within the bounds of truth to say that the warmest friends of Dr. and Mrs. Jack are those who know them best.

While the medical profession involves many responsibilities and requires of its successful disciples constant vigilance and sound judgment, guided by principles thoroughly tested by the brightest minds, it also is accompanied by many awards among which are abiding sentiments of grateful appreciation and the knowledge of work well done. No man in the community stands higher than the physician qualified by talents and by education and training for his life occupation. Any young man with the proper qualities of head and heart who chooses the healing art as his vocation is worthy of the confidence of the community and may reaonably look forward to a creditable and honorable career.

FRANCIS J. MOONEY.

Francis J. Mooney is devoting his time and energies to general agricultural pursuits upon a farm of two hundred and forty acres which was his birthplace and which he now owns. He was born here September 27, 1878, a son of Peter and Catharine (Nelligan) Mooney, who are now residing at No. 408 East Eldorado street in Decatur. The father was born in December, 1840, in County Armagh, Ireland, and his parents were Frank and Catharine (Graham) Mooney, who were also natives of Ireland, where they spent their entire lives, the grandfather of our subject there following the occupation of farming.

Peter Mooney was the seventh in order of birth in a family of five sons and three daughters. His educational advantages were meager and after he had put aside his text-books he worked with his father upon the home farm in Ireland until the spring of 1864, when he went to Scotland. In the fall of the same year, however, he returned to his old home on the Emerald isle but almost immediately thereafter left for America, landing in New York in October. He made his way direct to Niantic, where he joined his brother. His financial resources were so limited that he had to seek immediate employment, which he found at farm work and since that time he has been identified with the farming interests of this section of the state. In the spring of 1866 he purchased eighty acres of land in Niantic township from the Illinois Central Railroad Company, borrowing the money with which to make the payment. For a year afterward he continued to work for the man who had made the loan and in 1877 he began farming for himself on forty acres which he rented. He purchased land from time to time until he owned about sixteen hundred and eighty acres, becoming one of the most extensive landholders of the county. He generously aided his children by giving each of them two hundred and forty acres of land but still retains the ownership of nine hundred and sixty acres, from which he derives a splendid annual income. Moreover, his farms have constantly increased in value owing to the rapid settlement of this part of the state and the improvements which he has made upon his land.

On the 9th of September, 1872, Peter Mooney was married to Miss Catharine Nelligan, a daughter of John and Harriett Nelligan, who were natives of Ireland, the father of County Limerick and the mother of County Down. They came to American about 1852 and settled in Logan county near Mount Pulaski, where Mr. Nelligan died in 1895 at the age of sixty-seven years. The mother survived until September 17, 1909, when she passed away in her seventy-eighth year. Mr. Nelligan was a farmer throughout all his life and owned a good tract of land of two hundred and seventy-three acres. Mrs. Mooney was the elder of two children and was born July 27, 1855. Her brother died twenty-six years ago. Unto Peter and Catharine Mooney were born four children. Katie M., born April 19, 1873, became the wife of R. A. Stengel, of Logan county, and they are now living in Sangamon county with their two children, Leo and Raymond. John D., born November 28, 1876, died when but a year old. Francis J. is the third of the family. Mary A., born September 1, 1882, is the wife of W. E. Gollings, of Decatur, and they have one child, Francis J., born August 24, 1907. The father, Peter Mooney, retired from active farm life in February, 1895, after long years devoted to general farming and stock-raising. He has always been a democrat since becoming a naturalized American citizen and he and his wife are members of the Catholic church of Decatur.

Francis J. Mooney, whose name introduces this review, was about fifteen years of age when his parents removed from the farm to the city, after which he continued his education in the public schools of Decatur and spent three years as a high school student. He afterward began clerking in the clothing store of Otterheimer & Company and later acted as a salesman for Henry Bachrach, with whom he continued for about ten years. His health, however, became impaired owing to close confinement in the store and for about a year thereafter he en-

gaged in no business, spending much of his time with his sister on her farm. On the 1st of January, 1910, his father deeded him two hundred and forty acres of land on section 25, Niantic township, and he is now devoting his time and energies to the further improvement of his property, which is one of the good farms of the county. In his work he shows that he has not forgotten his early training upon the farm and his ready adaptability also enables him to vigorously take up the work and prosecute it with ability. He is making for himself a creditable position in agricultural circles in this part of the state.

JOHN HOBSON.

Farming interests claim the time and attention of John Hobson, who is the owner of sixty-one acres of land on section 10, Niantic township, and a tract of twenty-seven acres on section 26 of the same township. This constitutes a good farm of eighty-seven acres, which he has brought under a high state of cultivation and to which he has added many modern and attractive improvements. He was born on a farm about two miles south of Chapin, Scott county, Illinois, November 20, 1844, his parents being George and Sarah (Boyd) Hobson. His paternal grandparents were Silas and Patsy (Cline) Hobson. The grandfather, who was a farmer by occupation and a native of North Carolina, spent his last days in Illinois, where he died at the age of eighty-three years when our subject was about twenty-two. His wife, who was also a native of North Carolina, lived to the extreme old age of one hundred and two years. In their family were three sons and one daughter.

On leaving Scott county George Hobson removed to Morgan county, Illinois, where he at first rented land and later purchased forty acres of land, making his home thereon for about four years. On the expiration of that period he came to Macon county, where he invested in one hundred and sixty acres, a part of which is now the farm that constitutes the home of John Hobson. He also bought a forty-acre tract of timber land, on section 26, and subsequently twenty acres of timber land on the Sangamon county line. He lived a busy and useful life although he was called to his final rest when fifty-three years of age. He was married in Morgan county to Sarah Boyd, a native of Kentucky, who came to Morgan county with her parents. She long survived her husband and was about seventy-one or seventy-two years of age at the time of her demise. In their family were nine children, some of whom died in infancy, while William Dennis and Silas, who are unmarried, live upon a part of the old homestead.

John Hobson, the sixth in order of birth, acquired a fair education in the common schools near the old home and through the periods of vacation worked with his father until twenty-four years of age, early becoming acquainted with the best methods of planting the seed and caring for the crops until the harvests were safely garnered in the autumn. He has ever made farming his life work and is the owner of an excellent tract of land which in its thrifty appearance bears evidence of the care and labor which he bestows upon it.

It was on Christmas Day of 1866 that Mr. Hobson was married to Miss Matie Dora Augusta Bruce, and they traveled life's journey together for about forty-two years. They became the parents of five children: James, who died at the age of two years; George, a resident farmer of Sangamon county, who wedded Mary McDaniel and has four children; Charles, who is upon the home farm; Augusta, who is the wife of William Chrisman and lives with her father; and Bruce, who married Katie Blankenship and lives in Niantic township.

In his political views Mr. Hobson is a republican and cast his first presidential vote for General Grant in 1868. He is always fearless in support of his honest convictions and when he has cause to change his opinions never hesitates to say so. He has served as school director and is now a school trustee, and the cause of eduction finds in him a stalwart champion. He is ever interested in matters pertaining to the general welfare and while he lives a busy life in the care of his farm he finds opportunity to promote measures of public progress.

WILLIAM PERRINE.

William Perrine, one the largest corn raisers in Macon county, justly occupies a position as a leading farmer of central Ilinois. He was born at Sandy Lake, Mercer county, Pennsylvania, January 17, 1852, and is a son of Lewis and Caroline (McCluskey) Perrine. The father was also a native of the Keystone state, born in 1824, and emigrated to Morgan county, Ilinois, in 1855, but three years later removed to Christian county. He departed this life at the age of 77 years. The mother of our subject was born in Pennsylvania in 1833 and was called to her reward in 1904. There were seven children in their family, six of whom are now living: Alvina, the wife of Henry Waller, of Parsons, Kansas; Emeline, the wife or John Hawkins, of Christian county; William, the subject of this review; Luellen and Wellington, both of Christian county; and Flora, the wife of Frank Kinkaid, also of Christian county.

Educated in the common schools of Christian county, William Perrine was early made acquainted with the various details of the farm and even as a boy displayed an aptitude for agriculture and stock-raising that indicated unusual ability in that direction. He continued at the parental home until he arrived at the age of maturity, with the exception of two years which he spent in Colorado. After returning to Illinois he rented eighty acres of land in Christian county, but soon began buying from his father, who was a heavy landowner in this part of the state, and purchased in all eight hundred and thirty-seven acres in Pleasant View township, Macon county, of which five hundred and sixty acres were on section 4, one hundred and ninety-three acres on section 33 and eighty acres on section 34. Upon his land are four neat and commodious residences and many improvements which have largely added to its value. Mr. Perrine deals very extensively in mules and in his sheds can accommodate two hundred and fifty animals at one time. He is also a very large corn raiser, plowing each year more than five hundred acres for this purpose, and also raising oats and wheat upon an extensive scale. His grass and pasture lands are kept in excellent con-

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM PERRINE

dition and in his various operations he makes use of the most improved modern machinery, thus facilitating the work and securing handsome returns upon the outlay. It would be difficult to find anywhere a better managed farm property than that over which Mr. Perrine presides.

On the 4th of May, 1871, he was united in marriage to Miss Kittie Kipper, who was born in Christian county, and departed from this life one year after her marriage. He was married July 19, 1875, to Alice Warren, by whom he had one child, Warren E., born May 31, 1876. On May 4, 1903, Mr. Perrine was married to Mrs. Eliza (Baulos) Hawkins, a daughter of Jules and Emma (Lastfull) Baulos. Her father was born in France in 1832 and is now living at Buffalo Hart, Illinois. The mother died in 1878, leaving four daughters, three of whom are living: Anna, the widow of William Sanks, of Springfield, Illinois; Julia Katherine, who died at the age of three years; Eliza, now Mrs. Perrine; and Lois, the wife of Fred Beck, of Edinburg, Illinois. Mr. Baulos had been previously married, and his children by his first wife were: Fannie, who reared Mrs. Perrine and is the wife of Jacob Cooper, of Edinburg, Illinois; Victoria, the wife of Benjamin Richards, of Butler, Missouri; and Thomas, of Los Angeles, California. Mr. Baulos was a third time married, his last wife being Miss Ann Williams, who is the mother of one son, William. Mrs. Perrine had two children from her first husband: Orville Hawkins, born April 27, 1895; and Kittie, born December 5, 1896. Mr. Perrine has one son, Warren E., who was married about 1898 to Miss Jessie Adams and they are now living on his father's farm in Pleasant View township. Their children are: Zella and Neti, aged six and five years respectively.

William Perrine is an adherent of the republican party, believing that its principles are most conducive to the prosperity of the country. He has never sought political honors but served acceptably as a director of the school board in his township. He and his wife are consistent members of the Christian and Methodist churches respectively. That he is a man of large business capacity is evidenced from the activity to be seen upon his farm and the strictly up-to-date appearance of everything about the place. He represents that class of men who come to the front in any undertaking that enlists their interest and who early become business leaders in any community. Among his associates he is recognized as a man whose word is never broken and one who never deserts a friend. Mrs. Perrine is a worthy helpmate to her husband and is greatly respected for her many admirable traits of character.

JAMES W. REAVIS.

During the pioneer epoch in the history of Macon county James W. Reavis became a resident of Oakley township. He was then a youth of fourteen years, having been born in Tennessee, in the vicinity of Nashville, on the 16th of June, 1839. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. John Reavis, the father owning and cultivating a tract of land near Nashville until about 1853, when they severed their connections with the south and made their way northward to Macon county, Illi-

nois. They settled upon a farm in Oakley township but the father bent his energies to carpentering and in this work he was assisted by his son, James W. Reavis, who was a vigorous youth of fourteen years when the family came to Illinois. His education, begun in the schools of Tennessee, was continued in Macon county.

At the outbreak of the Civil war, when his patriotic spirit was aroused, James W. Reavis responded to the country's call for troops, being assigned to duty with Company A of the Eighth Illinois Regiment. He was then about twenty-one years of age and he remained at the front for four years or until the close of the war. During that period he participated in many hotly contested battles, in the long marches and the hard campaigns, but never faltered in the performance of any duty whether upon the lonely picket line or standing where shot and shell rained thickest on the firing line. When the war was over he was honorably discharged and returned to a farm in Oakley township, where he remained until his marriage.

It was on the 30th of August, 1868, that Mr. Reavis was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Forrest, of Oakley township, a daughter of G. W. Forrest, who was a lifelong farmer and became a prosperous resident of that township, where he owned and cultivated a good tract of land of one hundred and seventy-five acres. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Reavis were born two children: Nellie, now the wife of G. L. Spence, of Decatur, who is an engineer on the Wabash railroad running from Decatur to Chicago, his connection with the road covering a quarter of a century; and Elmer, who is single and resides at home with his mother at No. 1143 North Main street.

After his marriage Mr. Reavis devoted his life to railroad work in one way or another until the time of his death in January, 1903. He was a valued member of the Grand Army Post and of Macon Lodge, No. 8, A. F. & A. M. To his membership ties in these organizations he was most faithful. Moreover, he was a popular man, his many social qualities and admirable traits of character making him well known and liked.

JAN De GRAFF.

Jan De Graff, a representative of the building interests of Decatur, who since he took up contracting here has held to the highest standards of workmanship and has thus secured a liberal and growing patronage, was born at The Hague, Holland, October 14, 1865, a son of J. and Gertrude (De Beer) De Graff, also natives of Holland, where the family had lived for centuries. The father was a baker by trade and conducted a bakery in his native land until, determining to try his fortune in the new world, he came with his family to the United States in 1866 and settled in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he also conducted a bakery. Both he and his wife are now deceased.

Jan De Graff was a pupil in the public schools of Grand Rapids, although his opportunities in that direction were somewhat limited. However, by study and reading in his leisure hours, he managed to counteract the lack of early educational advantages and has become a well informed and practical business man.

In training for business life he took a course in drafting and architectural work and in due course of time received his diploma. He learned the carpenter's and miller's trade and established a general contracting business. He is not only an expert in building but also in general mechanical lines, having developed his natural powers and talents to a high degree of proficiency. He removed from Grand Rapids to St. Louis, afterward traveled through the south and later went to Terre Haute, Indiana, where he accepted a position as general foreman of the large electric power plant, which was completed in 1906.

In the spring of 1907 Mr. De Graff came to Decatur, where he established himself in a general contracting and building business and concrete work. By turning out first class work he has gained an enviable reputation and now has a most extensive patronage, being all that he is able to handle. Some of the most attractive and beautiful residences of Decatur in the last three years have been erected by him. Decatur welcomed him to the ranks of her representative business men and he expects to make this city his permanent place of abode. What he has to do he does promptly and he is as reliable as he is prompt and proficient.

In June, 1906, Mr. De Graff was married to Eva Waterland, a daughter of Henry and Eliza (Robbins) Waterland, of Litchfield, Illinois, who was born July 5, 1871. Her father was a native of England and the mother of Ontario, Canada. Mr. Waterland was a contractor and builder of the Wabash Railroad for twenty years but passed away about a decade ago. The mother still survives and is now living in Decatur. Mr. and Mrs. De Graff have a little daughter, Theresa.

Fraternally Mr. De Graff is connected with the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. He holds membership in the Christian church and his political views are in accord with the principles of the republican party. He is prompted by laudable ambition in all that he undertakes, and his energy and determination are enabling him to forge his way to the front. Already he occupies a creditable place in the ranks of the representative business men of Decatur and his further advancement is assured.

ALBERT T. SUMMERS.

Albert T. Summers, conducting the largest collection agency in Illinois outside of Chicago, his business being carried on under the name of A. T. Summers & Son, was born December 21, 1857, in Paris, Illinois, and since 1873 has resided continuously in Decatur. His parents were Charles and Cynthia M. Summers, nee Trogdon. The father, a lawyer by profession, was killed at Mattoon, Illinois, August 20, 1858.

Coming to Decatur when a youth of sixteen years, Albert T. Summers continued his education in the high school of the city, from which he was graduated in June, 1875. He afterward entered De Pauw University of Indiana, where he was graduated in June, 1878, and in 1880 after careful and thorough preliminary reading he was admitted to the bar. He then entered upon practice but early found that he could be of greater service to the community by doing

a general collection business and since 1880 he has directed his energies in that field of labor with splendid success. His business has grown steadily and rapidly until it is now the largest collection agency in Illinois outside of Chicago. He has admitted his son to a partnership under the style of A. T. Summers & Son, and they collect claims everywhere and also negotiate all classes of loans and deal in commercial paper. Their business is carefully systematized in its various departments, and the methods which they employ are resultant, bringing a success highly satisfactory to their clients and of which they have every reason to be proud.

On the 18th of October, 1881, Mr. Summers was married in Lincoln, Illinois, to Miss Helen M. Pegram, and they have three children, a son and two daughters: Charles P., who married Miss Florence Jones, of Decatur, and is in partnership with his father; Helen L., and Ruth B. W.

Mr. Summers has never held public office but is a stanch republican, his study of the political conditions and situation of the country convincing him that the interests of good government are best conserved through that party organization. He is a member of nearly all the prominent secret societies, has attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite in Masonry and is also a member of the Mystic Shrine. He has been honored with various offices, serving at the present writing as district deputy grand master of the twenty-ninth Masonic district of Illinois. He has likewise taken the degrees of the York Rite in Masonry, being prominent in the Knights Templar commandery of Decatur. He also has membership relations with the Knights of Pythias, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and attends the Episcopal church. His strongly marked personal characteristics are persistence, responsibility, reliability, honor and fair dealing. His residence in Decatur covers a period of thirty-seven years, during which time he has seen the city grow from ten to thirty thousand. Many business men have come and gone in that time and a large number of these have been Mr. Summers' clients. "Be useful" has been the watchword of his business, for he believes that if a man makes himself useful in the community in which he resides he will be appreciated, that his labors will produce the result desired of service to his fellowmen and of success for himself. Mr. Summers is widely known in Decatur and in fact over a large section of the surrounding country and has a circle of friends almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintance.

CLARENCE JEROME HILL.

With the passing away of Clarence Jerome Hill, Macon county lost one of its progressive and representative agriculturists, who throughout the period of his active life was closely identified with farming interests here. He was a native of the county, born in Elwin, May 20, 1873, a son of Benjamin Franklin Hill, who likewise followed farming in Macon county.

Clarence J. Hill spent the period of his boyhood and youth in his parents' home, and through the winter months pursued his education in the district

schools near his father's home, while in the summer seasons he worked on the home farm, receiving practical instruction from his father in the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. On reaching man's estate he began farming on his own account and as the years passed and he carefully saved his money he was enabled to invest in farm land, becoming the owner of a good property of ninety acres. He brought the fields under a high state of cultivation and erected new and substantial buildings, making many improvements on the place which today make it one of the valuable properties of the county. Everything about the place indicates that he was in touch with the modern spirit of progress which is manifest in agricultural lines, while his interests were so wisely and carefully conducted that he won substantial success and was numbered among the representative and progressive farmers of the locality, and at his death he left to his widow some valuable farm land in addition to city property in Decatur, one of which is the residence she now occupies, at No. 1207 West Wood street.

It was on the 6th of February, 1895, that Mr. Hill was united in marriage to Miss Cleo Clyde Taylor, who was born in Macon county, July, 1878, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Taylor, farming people of Macon county. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hill were born five children, Bonnie, Hattie, Edna, Freda and Clarence, Jr., ages respectively fourteen, twelve, ten, seven and four years.

In politics Mr. Hill gave his allegiance to the democracy, doing all in his power to further the influence of that party in the community although he neither sought nor desired public office for himself, preferring to concentrate his energies upon the conduct of his business affairs. He was not remiss, however, in the duties of citizenship, for his influence was ever upon the side of progress, improvement, reform and advancement. He was a consistent member of the Bethlehem Presbyterian church. He passed away April 19, 1907, at the early age of thirty-four years, and his death was the occasion of deep regret among the many warm friends whom he had gained in Macon county and who entertained for him high regard because of his many sterling qualities.

GEORGE S. CONNARD.

A resident of Decatur for seventeen years, George S. Connard has become well known here, and the ability that he has displayed in business has gained him wide and favorable recognition. He is now cashier of the Citizens National Bank, to which position he was called in January, 1905. Macon county numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred within her borders March 15, 1856. His parents were Charles E. and Nancy M. (Agur) Connard. The father's family were Pennsylvania people, while the mother's ancestors were Scotch-Irish. Charles E. Connard arrived in Macon county in 1842 and settled on a farm in South Wheatland township, where he was one of the pioneers, aiding in the development of that part of the county, especially along agricultural lines. He there resided until his death, which occurred September 27, 1909. For more than three decades he had survived his wife, who

passed away on the 30th of September, 1878. He was not only a prominent farmer of the community, but was active in public affairs, serving in several township offices. He was a trustee of the Methodist Episcopal church in his township for many years, his influence always being found on the side of right, truth and progress. His was an honored old age, and he passed to his reward in his eightieth year.

George S. Connard was reared on the home farm to the age of seventeen years, during which period he attended the district schools, while later he pursued a commercial course in Eastman's National Business College at Poughkeepsie, New York. In 1875 he became agent for the Illinois Central Railroad, which he thus represented for three years, and on the expiration of that period he began farming on his own account, devoting the succeeding twelve years to general agricultural pursuits. In 1893 he came to Decatur and for nine years was with the National Bank of this city, holding different positions that brought him broad experience in connection with the different phases of the banking business. In January, 1905, he entered the Citizens National Bank as assistant cashier, and was chosen cashier in July, 1906. He is proving a popular officer, courteous and obliging to the patrons of the bank, and at the same time thoroughly loyal to the institution which he represents. Recognizing the fact that capability and fidelity constitute the best recommendation for promotion, he has thus worked his way upward and is well known in financial circles in this city.

On the 11th of October, 1898, Mr. Connard was married to Miss Laura Ebert, of Decatur, and they have one child, Theodora. Fraternally Mr. Connard is connected with the Knights of Pythias, and since 1876 has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Elwin. He endeavors to conform his life to its teachings and at all times has held himself closely to a rule of conduct that commands for him respect and honor.

SAMUEL O. HILBRANT.

Samuel O. Hilbrant, occupying the responsible position of cashier of the Argenta Bank, in which connection he has proven his ability to solve the intricate problems of finance, has been connected with the bank since 1898. He has long been well known in that part of Macon county, however, for he came to the county in 1876 when a lad of twelve years. He is the son of Samuel Hilbrant, who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume. Upon the home farm he was reared and the common schools afforded him his early educational privileges, while subsequently he attended the high school of Argenta and also had the benefit of two years' instruction in the Northern Indiana Normal College at Valparaiso. When his school days were ended he took up the occupation of farming, to which he had been reared, and devoted two years to the tilling of the soil. He then accepted a position in a bank in Medaryville, Indiana, where he remained for two years, and thus with knowledge derived from practical experience he undertook the work to which he now devotes his energies, be-

coming cashier of the Argenta Bank in 1898. He is not only an efficient but also a popular officer of the institution, courteous and obliging to the patrons, and at the same time carefully safeguarding the interests of the stockholders. He was also for a time connected with the Argenta Telephone Company, acting as secretary, treasurer and general manager, but later sold his interest in that business.

On the 29th of June, 1898, Mr. Hilbrant was married in Medaryville, Indiana, to Miss Minnie Sternberg, a native of that state, reared and educated there. They are the parents of two sons and two daughters: May, Lucille, Robert and William. Mr. Hilbrant has purchased a lot and erected a neat residence in Argenta, which the family now occupy, and it is one of the hospitable homes of the city, extending good cheer and cordial welcome to many friends.

Politically Mr. Hilbrant is a republican and for two years filled the office of township collector. He has also served as clerk of the village board and is interested in everything pertaining to the substantial development and progress of the community. He is not neglectful of the higher and holier duties of life as is evidenced in his membership in the Argenta Presbyterian church, to which Mrs. Hilbrant also belongs. With various branches of Masonry he is identified including Argenta Lodge, A. F. & A. M.; Decatur Chapter, R. A. M.; Decatur Commandery, K. T.; and the Mystic Shrine of Peoria. He has served through all the chairs in the blue lodge and is a past master. He has also filled all of the offices in the Odd Fellows lodge of Argenta, of which he is a past grand, and he has represented both the Masonic and Odd Fellows fraternities in their respective grand lodges of the state. He is indeed a prominent and leading citizen of Argenta and a well known business man whose activity has been an element in the growth and progress of the town and county. His spirit of undaunted enterprise promises well for a successful future and has already established him in a creditable position at the present time.

OSCAR LACEY ERISMAN.

Oscar Lacey Erisman, a prosperous farmer of Macon county, whose home is in section 10, Niantic township, was born on the farm where he now lives, February 20, 1886. He is a son of William H. and Lillie (Buck) Erisman, both of whom are now living in Sangamon county, this state. There were five children in their family, Garland, Oscar Lacey, Estella, Iva and Sadie.

The subject of this review was reared upon the home farm until he was sixteen years of age, when he removed with his parents to Sangamon county. He was educated in the common schools and under his father became thoroughly familiar with the various operations of agriculture and stock-raising, showing an adaptability to farming pursuits that gave bright promise for his future career. At twenty-three years of age he was married and brought his bride to the home farm, where he has since continued. Here he cultivates sixty-seven acres in section 10 and eighty-eight acres in section 3, Niantic township, making a total of one hundred and fifty-five acres, all of which is productive and yields handsome annual returns for labor and time expended.

On the 17th of February, 1909, Mr. Erisman was united in marriage, at Illiopolis, Illinois, to Miss Anna Fried, a native of Logan county and a daughter of Jacob and Catharine Fried, who are identified with farming interests. One child, Lillie Catharine, born April 23, 1910, has blessed this union.

Mr. Erisman cast his first vote for the democratic ticket and is a stanch upholder of that party. He and his wife are valued members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Illiopolis and he is identified fraternally with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of Pythias, being at the present time chancellor commander of the local lodge of the latter order in Illiopolis. He was reared under favorable circumstances and, although just fairly launched in the business to which he expects to devote his life, has made an excellent start, being thoroughly acquainted with all branches of farming. He is active, energetic, wide-awake and ambitious to keep step with the progress of the twentieth century. His friends prophesy for him a prosperous and useful career.

ROLLAND E. PERSINGER.

Rolland E. Persinger, alert and enterprising, with aptitude for successful management, has been one of the forceful elements in the prosperity which has attended the Leader Iron Works since the organization of the business. Throughout his connection therewith he has been secretary and treasurer of the company that, operating along progressive lines, has become one of the extensive and important business enterprises of Decatur. He is still a young man and the qualities which have brought him success argue for a still more prosperous future. Macon county numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred in Maroa on the 23d of September, 1870.

His father, Captain J. M. Persinger, was a native of Shelby county, Ohio, and in Centerville, that state, he wedded Miss Sarah Beck, who was born in that place. Following their marriage they removed to De Witt county, Illinois, where they lived for a year and then took up their abode in Maroa, where they spent about thirty-three years, Mr. Persinger being engaged in the harness business during that time. In 1880 he established a hardware business, with which he was prominently connected up to the time of his death on the 17th of October, 1900. His widow still survives and is yet a resident of Maroa.

Entering the public schools of his native town at the usual age, Rolland E. Persinger pursued his studies through consecutive grades until he left the high school to become a student in the University of Illinois. He also attended the U. S. Grant University at Athens, Tennessee. From early youth he was acquainted with the hardware trade, assisting his father in the store while not attending school, and after finishing his studies he became associated with his father in business and thus continued until 1895, when he accepted a position with the Crocker Elevator Company of Maroa. He remained in that connection until 1903, when the business of the Crocker Company was absorbed by the Shellabarger Elevator Company of Decatur. He became a stockholder in the latter and removed to Decatur, where he was made a director and later elected treasurer of

the company. In that connection he bent his energies to the development and growth of the business and was active in its management until the 1st of August, 1905, when he disposed of his interests in that company and became associated with the Leader Iron Works, which was then practically in the stages of organization. He believed that there was a splendid field for such an enterprise, made investment in the stock and was elected secretary and treasurer of the new company, in which dual capacity he has since served. His efforts in this connection have ably supplemented the labors of the other officers and, working in harmonious union, they have developed an enterprise of large and profitable proportions. Its ramifying trade interests have reached out into all sections of the country and its shipments, covering a wide territory, bring a substantial financial return annually.

On the 8th of March, 1905, Mr. Persinger was married to Miss Leona C. Harkrader, of Decatur, and to them has been born a daughter, Helen Bernice. Mr. Persinger belongs to Macon Lodge, No. 8, A. F. & A. M., and also holds membership in the Decatur and Country Clubs. He and his wife are members of the First Presbyterian church and his study of the political issues and questions of the day has led him to support the republican party, although the cares of business are now too great to allow him to serve in political office. While a resident of Maroa, however, he filled the positions of mayor and city clerk and his influence in matters of citizenship is always on the side of progress, reform and improvement. His attention, however, is now concentrated on the development of the business which has been so largely promoted through his industry and discrimination. Energetic, prompt and notably reliable, he never stops short of successful accomplishment and the methods which he has employed in the attainment of success are such as conform to the strictest business ethics.

MRS. TABITHA SPORE.

Mrs. Tabitha Spore needs no introduction to the citizens of Friends Creek township, for she is well known there and has an extensive circle of warm friends. She was born in that township and is a daughter of Joseph D. Long, a native of Pennsylvania, in which state she grew to mature years and was married. He afterward removed westward to Ohio, becoming one of the pioneer settlers of that state, and about 1830 came to Illinois, casting in his lot with the few residents who claimed Macon county as their home. It was then largely a wild, unimproved and undeveloped region. The Indians still lived in the state, for it was two years afterward that the Black Hawk war occurred. The prairies were still covered with their native grasses, the forests were uncut and the streams unbridged. Only here and there had a venturesome spirit established a home on the plains of this part of Illinois and land was to be had almost for the asking. Mr. Long entered several hundred acres in Macon county and developed and improved a large farm in Friends Creek township, becoming in time one of the prosperous and well-to-do farmers of Macon county. Upon the place which he developed he reared his family and his life was an active and useful one, his

industry and progressiveness making him a valued and worthy citizen of the community. He married, lived and died in this county.

Mrs. Spore is one of a family of seven daughters and one son but only three of the number are now living. She was reared in Macon county, attended the public schools and was trained to the duties of the household, so that she was well qualified to take charge of a home of her own when in 1859 she gave her hand in marriage to Seth F. Spore, who was one of the early settlers of Macon county, coming from Ohio. He was a painter by trade and followed that pursuit for a number of years. At the time of the Civil war he offered his services to the government, enlisting as a member of the One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served throughout the period of hostilities and was then honorably discharged. He took part in a number of important engagements and many skirmishes and his experiences were those which usually fall to the lot of the soldier who takes part in the long hard marches and arduous campaigns.

While Mr. Spore was serving at the front his wife removed to Wisconsin, locating at Oshkosh, where he joined her after being mustered out of the army. There he worked at his trade for fourteen years and it was there that his death occurred. After his demise Mrs. Spore returned to Illinois, settling in Macon county and taking up her abode upon the farm in Friends Creek township where she now resides. She inherited one hundred and eighteen acres of land from her father and improved the place with the aid of her sons, so that she now has a neat and well developed farm property, in the midst of which stands a comfortable residence. There are also good barns and outbuildings that furnish ample shelter for grain and stock, and altogether hers is a valuable place, showing careful management and practical judgment on the part of the owner. That she is a lady of excellent business ability is indicated in the fact that she has not only placed valuable improvements upon her land but has also given to each of her children two thousand dollars to aid them in gaining a start in life. All of this was made from the farm. Mrs. Spore has three children, two sons and a daughter: Richard and William, who are carrying on the home farm; and Adelia May, the wife of Abraham Arnett, of Decatur. The sons are industrious and sucessful agriculturists and are men of exemplary character and worth, widely and favorably known in Argenta. The Spore home is a hospitable one and its good cheer is greatly enjoyed by the many friends of the family.

SAMUEL HILBRANT.

Samuel Hilbrant needs no introduction to the readers of this volume and especially to the citizens in the northeastern part of Macon county, for he is most widely and favorably known. He owns a farm of eighty acres within two miles of Argenta and has long been closely, actively and honorably associated with agricultural interests in this locality. He became a resident of the county in October, 1875, and in the intervening years has won the high esteem of his fellowmen because of his activity and reliability in business, his progressive spirit in citizenship and his social, genial nature, which everywhere wins him friends.

His birth occurred in Shelby county, Ohio, May 13, 1844, and he was reared to manhood upon a farm there. He acquired a good common-school education and through the period of his youth remained with his mother, his father having died when the son was a small lad. After arriving at years of maturity Samuel Hilbrant began working by the month as a farm hand and to some extent engaged in railroading, in fact his early manhood was a period of unremitting toil, devoted to active duty in the gravel pit, to work on freight trains and to farm labor. He has swung a cradle many a day and borne his full part in the work of the harvest field. He has mowed hay with a scythe and dropped seed by hand in the days of early spring planting. He became familiar with all the departments of farm work at a period when none of the modern farm machinery was in use but has lived to see a wonderful transformation in the methods of tilling the fields and caring for the crops.

On the 8th of March, 1868, Mr. Hilbrant was married in Shelby county, Ohio, to Miss Mima Elliott, who was born and reared in Shelby county and was a daughter of Samuel Elliott. After their marriage they began their domestic life upon a rented farm in Ohio, which Mr. Hilbrant cultivated for a number of years. Leaving his family there he came to Illinois in 1875 on a prospecting trip and was so well pleased with the country that he established the family home here. Coming to Macon county he first rented land and was soon joined by his family. He afterward purchased eighty acres of land, upon which a few improvements had been made, and with characteristic energy and determined purpose he began the further development and improvement of the farm on which he erected a good residence, a large barn and substantial outbuildings, furnishing ample shelter for grain and stock. He continued farming thereon until 1910, when he rented his land and purchased a residence in Argenta, where he took up his abode. He has since added to and remodeled the house and now has a comfortable and attractive home. While upon the farm he made a specialty of raising Poland China hogs, fattening a large number each year for the market. This constituted an important and profitable branch of his business.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hilbrant have been born four sons and a daughter: Elmer E. is married and is employed as a conductor on a freight train on the Illinois Central Railroad; Samuel O. is cashier of the Bank of Argenta and is mentioned elsewhere in this volume; Harvey is married and is carrying on the home farm; Mary is the wife of J. M. Barnes of Sac City, Iowa; and Charles is living in Argenta.

The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which Mr. Hilbrant is serving as a steward. His wife takes a very active part in all branches of the church and is a member of the different auxiliary societies. Of the Odd Fellows lodge of Argenta Mr. Hilbrant is a charter member and has filled all the chairs, being now a past grand, while in the Grand Lodge he has represented the subordinate body. He has served from year to year as the right supporter of the noble grand and he is now a member of the Decatur Encampment. Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise he has given his politcal support to the presidential nominees of the democratic party. He was first called to the office of supervisor to fill out an unexpired term and

was then elected and reelected, serving as a member of the county board for five years. He has also been township school trustee for several terms and has served on the board of education, the cause of the public schools finding in him a stalwart champion, whose efforts in their behalf have been far-reaching and beneficial. He has frequently attended the county and state conventions of his party as a delegate and is a man of considerable local prominence and influence. His labors have been a feature in the attainment of success in the prosecution of public measures as well as individual business interests, and his life work has been characterized by an unfaltering spirit and a firm determination that no ordinary difficulties nor obstacles can brook.

FRED HEINLE.

Fred Heinle is the eldest of a family of five brothers, all of whom are natives of Macon county and are well known and prosperous farmers here. His home is on section 11, Friends Creek township, and practical and progressive methods characterize his farm work, which includes the raising of stock as well as the cultivation of the fields. Like the others of the family his landed possessions are large. He is now cultivating two hundred and forty acres on section 11, Friends Creek township, and also another tract of eighty acres a mile to the east. In the midst of his farm stands a large and attractive residence, which he has recently erected. It is modern in all of its appointments, being supplied with furnace heat, hot and cold water, bath and gas. Such a home is indicative of the progressive spirit of him who occupies it. Macon county numbers him among her native sons and it was upon the old homestead that he first saw the light of day on the 4th of June, 1867. His youthful experiences were those which usually come to farm lads who vary attendance at school with the work of the fields. He continued with his father until he had attained his majority and then made arrangements for having a home of his own by his marriage on the 4th of February, 1891, in Friends Creek township, to Miss Nellie Hankins, who was born and reared in Macon county and is a daughter of Frank Hankins, one of the pioneer settlers of this region.

After his marriage Mr. Heinle farmed for a season on his father's old homestead and in 1892 located where he now resides. He had eighty acres that had formerly belonged to his father and an adjoining tract of eighty acres, the cultivation and improvement of which claimed his unrelaxing attention until 1897, when he left Macon county and went to Colorado. There he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in the irrigated district and raised a crop, spending the summer there, but in December of the same year returned to Illinois. He made other investment in eighty acres in 1910, so that his present holdings comprise three hundred and twenty acres, making him one of the sucessful and extensive agriculturists of Friends Creek township. He is diligent and persevering in business and his sound judgment and progressiveness are indicated by the fact that he has gradually added to his land

and enhanced the value of his property by the modern improvements he has put upon it.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Heinle have been born four children who are still living, Bessie, Walter, Ralph and Mildred, and they also lost a daughter, Helen, who died at the age of three years. The parents hold membership in the Shiloh United Presbyterian church and Mr. Heinle belongs to Argenta Lodge, A. F. & A. M.; Argenta Lodge, I. O. O. F.; and to the Modern Woodmen camp. In the Odd Fellows society he has filled some of the chairs. Politically he is a democrat of considerable influence in the local councils of his party and has served as a delegate to county conventions. He has also filled the office of school trustee for some years. He and his brothers are men of exemplary habits, of strict integrity and reliability in business and of sterling worth in all of life's relations, and the family name is an honored one in Macon county, where his father located many years ago.

ANTON SPAETH.

Anton Spaeth, vice president and sales manager of the Decatur Brewing Company, was born in the kingdom of Wurtemberg, Germany, February 9, 1855, his parents being Mathias and Crescentia (Rist) Spaeth, both of whom spent their entire lives in Wurtemberg. The father was a farmer and shoemaker, numbered among the successful men of his district. The son spent his youth in his parents' home and acquired his early education in the public schools there, while after coming to the new world he attended the Teachers Seminary at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

In Germany, when fifteen years of age, he was apprenticed to the miller's trade, completing his term of indenture when eighteen years of age, or in 1873. He then came to the United States after he learned that better wages were paid in this country and that business opportunities were greater. He first took up his abode in Fremont, Ohio, where he secured a position in a grocery store as general utility boy. He could not then speak a word of English but his employer was German and gave the boy opportunity to work in his store. In this way he gained a considerable knowledge of the language and further promoted his efficiency in this regard by attending night school. He remained with his first American employer for four years, after which he came to Decatur in 1877 and accepted a position in the German school. He was a brother of the Rev. Joseph Spaeth, of St. James German Catholic church, who had built and founded the first German parochial school in this city. Father Spaeth was also the founder of the church and Anton Spaeth became the first teacher in the new school. The following year he determined to suplement his own education by further study and entered the German Teachers Seminary at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from which he was graduated with the class of 1881. He afterward engaged in teaching school for one year in Mt. Sterling, Illinois, and for two years in Springfield, after which he returned to Decatur and as there was no position open along the line of his chosen profession he accepted a temporary position in the grocery store of Peter Ullrich.

Not long afterward he was apointed to a position in the brewery of Henry Shlaudeman, now the Decatur Brewing Company. His duties were first as bookkeeper and collector and on the reorganization and incorporation of the business in 1888 he became a member of the firm and was made a director. On the 1st of January, 1903, he was chosen vice president of the company and is now the second executive officer, in which connection he is bending his energies to administrative direction, his sound judgment and business ability proving a strong element in the successful conduct of the enterprise.

In 1884 Mr. Spaeth was married to Miss Clara Melchoirs, of Decatur, and unto them have been born seven children: Bernard, who is employed by the Gugler Lithographing Company, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Joseph, who is in the employ of the Pacific Express Company at Chicago; and Augusta, Marie, Anna, Otto and Antoinette, all still under the parental roof.

Mr. Spaeth and his family are communicants of the Catholic church and for fifteen years he served as organist and leader of the choir. He is president of the St. James German Aid Society and is a man of benevolent spirit, always willing to extend a helping hand to the needy. He is numbered among Decatur's self-made men, his success being attributable to his own efforts and his utilization of opportunities. Discouragement and failure have found no place in his vocabulary and with persistent energy that has overcome all obstacles he has worked his way upward to success.

C. N. McKIRAHAN.

C. N. McKirahan, whose time is devoted to the cultivation and improvement of one hundred and sixty acres of the school land about eight miles west of Maroa, was born in Monroe county, Ohio, on the 31st of January, 1860, his parents being Joseph J. and Mary Jane (Davis) McKirahan. The father, who was a native of Belmont county, Ohio, and of Scotch and Irish lineage, was a farmer by occupation. Following the outbreak of the Civil war he responded to the country's call for military aid and enlisted in the Thirty-eighth Regiment of Ohio Infantry, with which he participated in a number of important and hotly contested battles. He married Mary Jane Davis, who is of Welsh descent. She is still living in Macon county and is now in her eightieth year. She has personally attended to her business affairs since the death of her husband about five years ago.

C. N. McKirahan spent the first five years of his life in the Buckeye state and in 1865 accompanied his parents on their removal westward to Decatur, Illinois. The father was a mechanic and was thus engaged until about 1880, when he purchased a farm of one hundred and forty acres in this county and turned his attention to general agricultural pursuits. His son had been a pupil in the public schools of Decatur and was about twenty years of age when his father bought the farm. He assisted in the development and cultivation of the fields until thirty years of age but at length left home and rented land, which he began to cultivate on his own account, spending about four years on his first place.

He next began the cultivation of the Dr. Carr farm, upon which he lived for a few years, at the end of which time he came to his present place of residence, where he has made his home for nine years. He is now busily engaged in the further development and improvement of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres and the soil, which is naturally rich and productive, responds to his labors in generous and abundant harvests. He cultivates the crops best adapted to climatic conditions here and he also raises some stock, making a specilty of hogs and horses and also keeping a herd of Jersey cows. He is likewise well known as a breeder of Leghorn chickens, having about five hundred upon his place. Recently he has purchased a farm of sixty-five acres in Whitmore township and expects to remove to that place in 1911.

In 1891 Mr. McKirahan was married to Miss Jennie Fowler, who came from Ohio and is a representative of one of the old and prominent families of that state. Seven children have blessed this union, of whom four are yet living, while Teddy is now deceased and two died in infancy. Those who still survive are: Lillian Fay, who is a high-school graduate and is now attending the Eureka (Ill.) College; Bonnie Gail and Marjorie Lee, both in school; and Eddie Joy.

Mr. McKirahan belongs to the Christian church, which his family also attend. Most of his life has been spent in Macon county and his many sterling traits of heart and mind have gained for him the kindly regard and firm friendship of many with whom he has come in contact. He believes in progressive methods in citizenship as well as in farming, and at all times his labors are permeated by the spirit of advancement which reaches out to larger things and accomplishes substantial results.

GEORGE A. STAHL.

A spirit of determination and perseverance has characterized George A. Stahl in the conduct of his farming interests. He is pleasantly located on section 11, Niantic township, and it was in this township that his birth occurred on the 18th of March, 1864, his parents being John and Sarah (Woods) Stahl. The father, a native of Ohio, came to Illinois when eighteen years of age and was for a long period a representative of the farming interests of Niantic township.

It was upon the old homestead farm that George A. Stahl spent the days of his boyhood and youth, during which period he acquired a fair common-school education. On the 17th of December, 1885, when about twenty-two years of age, he married Miss Levina Gepford, of Niantic, who was born on the place where she now resides, October 23, 1868. Her parents were George W. and Henrietta (Kitch) Gepford. Her father was a native of Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, and at an early day came to Illinois with his people, who settled near the timber in Macon county. Her mother was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and removed westward with her father's family. It was in this county that Mr. and Mrs. Gepford were married, taking up their abode

upon the farm which is now the Stahl home. The father entered eighty acres of land from the government and although it was a wild and unimproved tract when it came into his possession, he converted it into productive fields and spent the remainder of his days upon that farm. He was twice married and by the first union there was one daughter, Amanda, who is now the wife of Bennett Durflinger. By his second marriage there were two children who reached adult age: Abraham Lincoln, who now lives on a farm at Jettersville, Virginia; and Mrs. Stahl. The former has been married twice. He first wedded Mary Combs and they had four children. For his second wife A. L. Gepford married Madie Bailey, and they became the parents of three children. The father of Mrs. Stahl died January 23, 1904, and the mother passed away August 19, 1887, the graves of both being made in Long Point cemetery. He was a republican in politics and well informed concerning the leading questions and issues of the day but was not an office seeker. He served for one term as justice of the peace. He took an active part in religious work, holding membership in the Christian church, in which he served as deacon and elder.

After his marriage George A. Stahl came into his father-in-law's family and has since resided upon the old home farm, which in 1902 he purchased from Mr. Gepford. He has since devoted his time and attention to the further development and improvement of the property, which is a highly cultivated tract of land, equipped with all the accessories and conveniences of the model farm of the twentieth century. Here the following children have been born unto him and his wife: Olive Myrtle, born April 21, 1887; George Lester, May 9, 1890; Sarah Hallie, January 1, 1892; Alva Cecil, February 5, 1894; and Bernice Ruth, born June 26, 1897. Mr. Stahl belongs to the Christian church as does every member of his family. They take an active and helpful interest in the various departments of church work, and he is serving as one of the deacons. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a man of many remarkable characteristics, holding firmly to a course which he believes to be right, and his many commendable qualities have gained for him the confidence and friendly regard of all with whom he has come in contact..

GEORGE MORGAN COX.

Although George Morgan Cox has passed from this life, his memory will be cherished for years to come, for he was loved and respected by all who knew him, owing to the many sterling traits of character which he possessed. In early life he followed farming in Macon county but for eighteen years prior to his demise he had lived retired in a nice home in Decatur, his success in former years enabling him to spend his last days in comfort and ease. He was born on the home farm in South Wheatland township, April 5, 1830, a son of Ephraim Cox, who was born in Maryland. He remained in the south until 1829, when he made his way northward, settling in Macon county, Illinois, where he spent his remaining days, dying in 1851.

George Morgan Cox was reared in much the usual manner of farm lads, working in the fields during the spring and summer months, while during the winter seasons he trudged his way to the district school, there to learn the lessons that might prepare him for a business career in his later life. He was engaged in farming throughout a long period and was industrious, persevering and thrifty. When he retired from active connection with business affairs, eighteen years prior to his death, he purchased a nice residence located at No. 1227 West Wood street, and there he passed away September 8, 1909.

On the 19th of November, 1851, Mr. Cox was married to Miss Ellen A. Downs, who was born March 15, 1832, in Circleville, Ohio, and this union has been blessed with two sons and two daughters: William Henry, who is married and lives in Decatur, owning a nice residence on West Macon street; Mary Ann; Margaret, the wife of Louis Perdue, who follows farming in Macon county; and Samuel Chester, who also makes his home in Decatur.

Mr. Cox was a charter member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church in South Wheatland township, having been identified with the organization for sixty years. Although a stanch supporter of the republican party he was not a man who sought to figure in public life, preferring to leave office holding to others. He was, however, interested in anything that tended to advance the best interests of his home city or community, and his influence was ever a potent element in the work of progress and improvement. He thoroughly enjoyed home life and took the keenest pleasure in the society of his family and friends. His life was exemplary in every respect and he ever supported those interests which are calculated to uplift and benefit humanity, while his own high moral worth may well serve as an example to those who come after him.

GEORGE WILLIAM RICHARDSON.

Energy and enterprise have ever characterized the business life of George William Richardson, and these qualities are particularly dominant in the management of a successful agricultural enterprise. One of Illinois' native sons, his birth occurred in Jackson county on the 24th of November, 1850, a son of William and Salvena (Ulrich) Richardson. The father, who was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1824, came to America in 1844 at the age of twenty years, locating first in Jackson county, Illinois, where he remained until 1862, when he removed to Canada. His residence in that country, however, covered but two years, and in 1864 he returned to Illinois, taking up his abode in Macon county, where he was residing at the time of his death on the 22d of February, 1900. His entire life had been devoted to agricultural pursuits. In 1849, he had married Miss Salvena Ulrich, who, born in Germany in 1831, came with her parents to America in 1847. The family home was established in Illinois, and here she gave her hand in marriage to William Richardson. Her death occurred on the 21st of May, 1902, two years after that of her husband. Their

family consisted of thirteen children, and of this number eight still survive and have families of their own.

The eldest of this family, George William Richardson, was reared under the parental roof and in the public schools of this state acquired his education. He remained with his father, assisting in the cultivation of the fields until twenty-one years of age, when, actuated by a desire to gain a larger knowledge of the world than the narrow confines of farm life afforded, he left home to enter business independently. For about seven years he was engaged at various occupations throughout the country.

His time was thus occupied until 1878, when he was united in marriage to Miss Eliza Cotner, who was born November 28, 1856, and was the eighth in a family of twelve children born unto David and Elizabeth (McKinn) Cotner. Her parents were both natives of Indiana and came to Illinois, locating in Macon county in 1875. Here her father passed away on the 5th of July, 1897, at the age of seventy- eight years, having long survived his wife, who departed this life August 15, 1888, when sixty-three years of age.

After his marriage Mr. Richardson returned to the occupation to which he had been reared and for which he was well equipped by thorough and comprehensive training received on the old homestead during the period of his boyhood and youth. The young couple began their domestic life on a farm of two hundred and forty acres located on section 3, Milam township, the property of F. M. Shaffer, and in its operation Mr. Richardson has since continued in the capacity of renter. His efforts have proved successful, for he has introduced many modern and progressive methods in the conduct of his enterprise and his labors have been characterized by a spirit of industry and perseverance—essential factors in any degree of prosperity.

With the passing years the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richardson was blessed with a family of twelve children, three of whom are now deceased. Orlethia S., the eldest, was born November 10, 1878, and resides at home. Carrie, who was born on the 29th of January, 1880, was united in marriage on the 27th of January, 1904, to Pearl Huddelston and now makes her home in Rose Hill, Jasper county, Illinois. Arthur F. Richardson, born September 12, 1881, is also at home. Eva, whose birth occurred on the 12th of April, 1883, was married February 25, 1903, and has now passed away, her death occurring September 17, 1904. Dora, born April 2, 1885, was married in June, 1901, to Clarence Dennison, of Macon county, and they have four children. Albert R. was born October 16, 1886, and on the 5th of October, 1908, was united in marriage to Miss Mamie Jackson, of Macon county. They have two children, and now make their home in Buena Vista county, Iowa. George R. was born January 1, 1889, and is yet at home. Annie B., born June 17, 1891, passed away March 14, 1892. Esther Delene, born October 2, 1893, is likewise with her parents. Wilmer L., born September 27, 1896, is now deceased, passing away November 5, 1897. The other members of the family, Walter L. and Bessie M., born March 14, 1899, and October 28, 1904, respectively, are also under the parental roof.

Mr. Richardson and his family attend the United Brethren church, and his wife and two children hold membership therein. They are well known socially

in the community in which they reside and their home is the popular resort of a large circle of warm friends. Mr. Richardson belongs to Dalton City Lodge No. 1965, M. W. A., and he is a stanch supporter of the democratic party, believing that its principles are best adapted to conserve public interests. He has been called to public office on several occasions, having served at various times as clerk, commissioner and assessor, and in all matters of citizenship has ever been found public-spirited and loyal.

FRANK L. EVANS.

Frank L. Evans, whose record is written in tangible terms of success, is the president and treasurer of the Evans Elevator Company. From the outset of his career he has watched every opportunity pointing toward progress and each forward step in his business career has brought him a broader outlook and larger advantages. Gradually he has worked his way upward and his prosperity represents the fit utilization of the innate powers and talents which are his.

A native of the neighboring state of Indiana, Mr. Evans was born in La Fayette on the 1st of March, 1869, his parents being Thomas L. and Anna (Childs) Evans, both of whom were natives of central Ohio. The father was a graduate of Otterbein College, of Ohio, and devoted his life to educational work, with which he was prominently identified for more than forty years. Intellectual activity in various communities has been largely stimulated by his efforts and his own enthusiastic zeal. Recently he has retired from that field and is now engaged in the real-estate commission business in Decatur. He came to this city in 1879 and has been principal of three different ward schools here. He was elected and served in the office of county superintendent of schools and his educational activities brought him a wide acquaintance, while his personal qualities have gained for him the high regard of those with whom he has come in contact. During the Civil war he enlisted in the Ninety-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry and on the 7th of August, 1862, he was made second lieutenant of Company K. Later he was promoted to first lieutenant of the same company and subsequently was made captain of Company C, serving with that rank until the close of hostilities. He was captured by the rebels in the battle of Sabine Crossroads during the Red River expedition, April 8, 1864, and exchanged on the 23d of the following October. At the close of the war he was mustered out July 29, 1865.

Frank L. Evans was reared at home and acquired his education in the public and high schools of Decatur, being graduated with the class of 1887. He was afterward a student in the University of Michigan for one year. In the fall of 1887 he accepted a clerical position with the Standard Oil Company, with which he was thus connected for two years. It was subsequent to this time that he attended the Michigan University, after which he returned to Decatur and resumed his connection with the Standard Oil Company. In 1891 he went to Indianapolis as special clerk for the Standard Oil Company and was promoted to the position of chief clerk. In 1893 he returned to Decatur and continued in the employ of the same company until 1895. His active connection with the grain trade began

when he accepted the position as bookkeeper for the firm of Dumont & Company in December, 1895. He acted in that capacity until January, 1897, when he resigned to engage in the grain business on his own account, becoming one of the organizers of the corporation of B. S. Tyler & Company. He was made secretary of the company and the business was established upon a paying foundation. Mr. Tyler died in 1902 and in 1904 Mr. Evans bought the interest of the other stockholders and organized the Evans Elevator Company, of which he became president and treasurer. He has had the entire management of the business since that time and the fact that it is now one of the successful enterprises of the city is an indication of his excellent business ability, keen sagacity and unfaltering enterprise. He has ever been watchful of opportunities pointing to prosperity and in the field in which he has labored has so directed his energies that substantial results have been achieved. Aside from his connection with the grain trade he is the present manager of the Ennis farms in Macon, Piatt and Moultrie counties.

In September, 1899, Mr. Evans was married to Miss Alice Bering, who was born in Sloatsburg, New York, January 6, 1872, a daughter of J. Edward Bering, of Decatur, and they have one child, Edward Bering, born August 3, 1900. Mr. Evans' political allegiance is unfalteringly given to the republican party. He belongs to the Chi Psi, a Greek letter fraternity, and holds membership in the Chamber of Commerce, the Decatur Club and the Country Club. Social qualities render him popular and business enterprise and integrity have gained for him an unassailable and enviable reputation in the commercial circles of the city.

WILLIAM TAYLOR.

Inflexible as the laws of nature, is the rule which governs honorable success. It comes as the direct and logical result of earnest effort, intelligently directed, and the life history of William Taylor is another proof of this fact. He was born August 7, 1832, near Flemington, in Hunterdon county, New Jersey, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Jabez Taylor, whose family numbered three sons and two daughters, the other members being Lemuel, Vandervere, Catherine and Mary.

William Taylor was reared on a farm in his native county and acquired his early education in the district schools near his home. After reaching mature years, however, he came to a realization of the fact that his educational facilities were inadequate to meet the responsibilities of life, and ambitious to become better equipped in this direction, he went to New York city and attended a night school, while during the day he was employed by a commission firm of that city. His time was thus spent for two years, when he sought the broader opportunities of the west and came to Illinois, first locating in Jersey county. He spent but a brief period in that section and then settled in Montgomery county, where he purchased a farm of eighty acres, cultivating the same for seven years.

Mr. Taylor then leased a tract of three hundred and twenty acres, in Illini township, Macon county, operating the same for a decade. Later Mr. Taylor purchased a farm of two hundred and ten acres in Friends Creek township. To the development and improvement of this farm he then devoted his best energies and became a very successful agriculturist. He made a close study of the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops, and his fields annually returned him golden harvests. In 1881 Mr. Taylor decided to abandon farming and removed to Decatur, purchasing a nice residence at No. 301 West North street. After spending about two years in this city, in the spring of 1883, he removed to Waverly, Illinois, but only remained in that place about four years, when he returned once more to his home in Decatur to spend his remaining days. He still retained possession of his farm of two hundred and ten acres in Friends Creek township, and later invested in a second tract of eighty acres in Milan township, and from this he derived an annual income that supplied himself and family with all the comforts of life.

It was prior to his removal to the west that Mr. Taylor was married in Flemington, New Jersey, to Miss Sarah Jane Hickson, the wedding ceremony being performed on the 13th of March, 1859. Mrs. Taylor was born in Jerseyville, Illinois, April 13, 1839, and by her marriage she has become the mother of a daughter and two sons. Mary Eleanor, the eldest, was born October 27, 1862, and is with her mother in Decatur. Clarence G., born September 6, 1864, is a practicing physician of San Francisco, California. James Frederick, who was born April 3, 1870, is a tax collector and makes his home in Decatur.

Mr. Taylor gave his political allegiance to the republican party, but neither sought nor desired office. He was a consistent member of the First Baptist church of this city. He was devoted to the welfare of his family, and at his death left them in very comfortable financial circumstances. He passed away June 8, 1897, at the age of sixty-five years, and in his demise Decatur mourned a citizen whose worth was widely acknowledged and whose example is well worthy of emulation.

HON. ORPHEUS W. SMITH.

Eight years' service on the county bench has given proof of the ability of Judge Orpheus W. Smith, whose decisions at all times fair and impartial, have won the approval of the bar at large and have received the indorsement of his superior officers. Judge Smith is a splendid representative of the profession to which life, liberty and property look for protection. He was born upon a farm in Jasper county, Illinois, January 3, 1866, a son of Daniel P. and Mary I. (Eagleton) Smith. The father, who was born near Zanesville, Ohio, devoted his life to farming. In manner he was plain and unostentatious, was careful and painstaking in business and thoroughly reliable in all transactions with the public. His fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, called him to public office. Three times he was elected county treasurer of Jasper county, being chosen to that position in 1873, again in 1879, and once more in

1882, so that his incumbency in the office covered nine years. He died April 10, 1897, having for ten years survived his wife, who passed away August 28, 1887.

Judge Smith, spending his youthful days upon his father's farm, worked in the fields through the summer months and in the winter seasons attended the country schools. He supplemented his early educational training, however, by five terms' study in McKendree's College at Lebanon, Illinois, and taught school in the interval. He determined, however, upon the practice of law as a life work, and completed his law course in that college in June, 1891, after which he was admitted to practice at the Illinois bar. He taught school for another term, however, before entering upon the active work of the profession, which he did at Newton, Illinois, in partnership with Judge James P. Jack, with whom he continued for two years. In January, 1893, he began practicing alone and so continued until 1897, when he was installed as one of the justices of the peace of Decatur. In 1901 he was reelected to that office and served until 1902, when he was elected county judge, and in 1906, and again in 1910 was re-elected, so that he is now serving for the third term, his incumbency in that office will be for a period of about twelve years. Few lawyers have made a more lasting impression upon the bar of Macon county both for legal ability of a high order and for the individuality of a personal character that impresses itself upon a community. Devotedly attached to his profession, systematic and methodical in habit, sober and discreet in judgment, calm in temper, diligent in research, conscientious in the discharge of every duty, courteous and kind in demeanor and inflexibly just on all occasions, these qualities have enabled Judge Smith to take high rank among the representatives of the bench in this part of the state.

On the 24th of November, 1892, Judge Smith was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth M. Scott, and to them were born twin daughters, Mary I. and Carrie L., on the 23d of April, 1898. Judge Smith and his wife are members of the Grace Methodist Episcopal church, and he is identified with the Masonic fraternity, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Mutual Benefit Association. In more strictly professional lines he is connected with the Macon County Bar Association, and no higher testimonial of his qualifications as a man and judge could be given than the fact that the bar of Macon county holds him in highest regard.

LOUIS B. DICKSON.

A well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, located on section 2, Milam township, was not only the birthplace of Louis B. Dickson but is the scene of business operation for him at the present time. He was born January 15, 1878, the fifth in order of birth in a family of nine children, whose parents are Adam and Harriet J. (Gleason) Dickson. The former, born in Scotland, came as a young man of eighteen years to the new world, the first ten years after his arrival here being spent in Michigan and Wisconsin. He was about

thirty years of age when he continued his journey to the middle west, locating on the farm which is now the home of our subject, and for many years he devoted his attention to the improvement and cultivation of this place. In the fall of 1909, however, he took up his abode near Janesville, Wisconsin, where he died December 18, 1910. Mrs. Dickson, who was born in Ohio, accompanied her parents on their removal to Macon county in the early days, and it was here that she met the man whom she afterward married. She survives, having reached the age of sixty-three years.

Louis B. Dickson was reared on the home farm, while his education was acquired in the public schools of Macon county. After completing his education, he took up work in earnest in connection with his father, thus being engaged until 1897, when he established a home of his own by his marriage to Miss Grace Wilson, the fifth in order of birth in a family of eight children born unto W. T. and Emma (Bottrell) Wilson. She was born December 27, 1881, and by her marriage has become the mother of two sons, Earl L. and Walter B.

Following his marriage, Louis B. Dickson engaged in farming on the old home place on his own account, and this has continued to be his home to the present time. He has here one hundred and sixty acres of valuable and productive land, which responds readily to the care and labor which he bestows upon it. In addition to carrying on general farming, he raises considerable stock, making a specialty of draft horses, which he disposes of at popular prices. He carries on his work in accord with the most modern and progressive ideas and this combined with his honorable dealing constitutes the foundation for the splendid success which he today enjoys.

Mr. Dickson is a stanch republican in his political belief and support, and for the past three years has filled the office of assessor. He and his wife are consistent members of the United Brethren church at Dalton City, of which Mr. Dickson is serving as an elder. Mr. Dickson has spent his entire life in Macon county, and is therefore widely and favorably known, having a host of warm friends in this section of the state, while his estimable wife also shares with him in the high regard in which he is held.

MILTON JOHNSON.

Correctly judging his own capacities and powers and also life's contacts and experiences, and utilizing the former as strenuously and effectively as the latter, Milton Johnson is today recognized as one of the prominent and influential business men of Decatur, where for a long period he has figured in financial circles. He was formerly president of the Citizens National Bank, and was also president of the Citizens Title & Trust Company.

A native of Wisconsin, Mr. Johnson was born in Milwaukee county, September 30, 1845, and is a son of Edwin and Paulina (Howes) Johnson. The father, a native of Massachusetts, took up his abode in Wisconsin in 1842 and the mother arrived there the following year. They were married in Milwaukee county and in support of his family Edwin Johnson followed the trade of a

stonemason and plasterer, while still carrying on farming. He built many foundations and took large and important contracts. He also purchased a little farm and in his life there were few leisure hours, for his entire time was given over to his farming or his trade. He died at the age of eighty-two years in the home of his son Milton in Decatur. He had served as town clerk and township superintendent of schools, and while in Wisconsin was elected to represent his district in the state legislature. He was justice of the peace for many years and was known far and near as Squire Johnson. A man of unfaltering honor, he was just and upright on all occasions, and over his record as a citizen and official there fell no shadow of wrong. While his township was largely made up of German citizens, he ever enjoyed their highest regard, and they gave to him unfaltering support. His integrity was ever above question and his straightforward business dealings won the respect of all. His wife passed away in 1864, her death being the result of a runaway accident. In the family were two sons and three daughters, who reached adult age: Milton; Franklin, a leading horticulturist of Sauk county, Wisconsin, making his home in Baraboo; Mrs. Mary Brown, whose husband was the first state secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association of Illinois; Mrs. Martha Smith, the wife of a Methodist Episcopal minister of West Allis, Wisconsin; and Mrs. Anna Davis, the widow of Isaac J. Davis of Oak Park, Illinois. There is also a half-brother, Edwin, a druggist, who is living at Sugar City, Colorado.

Milton Johnson was educated in the country schools and in Bryant & Stratton Business College of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He made his initial step in the business world in 1866 as an employe of the United States Express Company, and was sent to Decatur, where he represented the company until 1869. In that year he became bookkeeper and clerk for Powers, Ferris & Company, wholesale and retail boot and shoe merchants, with whom he continued until 1872, when he entered the banking house of J. Millikin & Company, the partners being James Millikin and J. R. Gorin. Mr. Johnson acted as bookkeeper in that bank and in other positions until 1892. In the meantime he had become a member of the firm and in the year designated he sold out and became interested in the Citizens National Bank, of which he was vice president for a year. He was then elected to the presidency and continued in office with brief interruptions until January, 1909, when he became the first president of the Citizens Title & Trust Company, of which he was one of the organizers. Mr. Johnson has thus long been identified with the banking business of Decatur and ranks among the leading financiers of Macon county. Honored and respected by all, no man occupies a more enviable position in banking circles, and this is not alone by reason of the success he has achieved, but also owing to the straightforward business policy which he has ever followed. His carefully formulated plans have been promptly executed, and his keen sagacity and unfaltering enterprise have been manifest in the success which has attended his efforts.

Mr. Johnson laid the foundation for a happy home life in his marriage on the 5th of January, 1870, to Miss Philena A. Evans, a native of New York and for many years a resident of Waukesha, Wisconsin. They now have five sons and one daughter: Elbert E., a resident of Los Angeles, California; Franklin

L., assistant cashier of the Merchants National Bank of St. Louis, Missouri, who was previously for sixteen years with the National Bank of Commerce of that city; Milton, Jr., assistant cashier of the Citizens National Bank of Decatur; Alva M., who for four years was with the Merchants' National Bank of Indianapolis, and is now business manager of Flint, Eaton & Company, manufacturing chemists of this city; Pauline, the wife of R. C. Augustine, an optician of Decatur; and Roy G., of Decatur.

In his political views Mr. Johnson is an earnest republican, and at all times takes a deep interest in the welfare and upbuilding of the city, his cooperation being a tangible asset in movements for the general good. He belongs to the First Methodist Episcopal church, was for many years president of the board of trustees, and all during that time served as treasurer of the board. He has been an earnest and untiring worker in religious affairs, and has sought with equal fervor the benefit and upbuilding of the community and individual in other directions. He is known as one of the prominent members of the Masonic fraternity in Decatur, belonging to Macon Lodge No. 8, A. F. & A. M., since 1867. He is also a member of Macon Chapter No. 21, R. A. M., and to Beaumanoir Commandery No. 21, K. T., serving for two terms as eminent commander, and also becoming a member of the grand commandery of Illinois. He is in thorough sympathy with the purposes and principles of the craft, and is one of its exemplary representatives. His life work has at all times been characterized by progress, whether in the field of business, in politics or in fraternal relations. He seems to have readily recognized the opportunities which others have passed heedlessly by and where the chance has come for a forward step he has made it, thus gaining a broader outlook and still greater opportunities. Thoroughness has also been one of his characteristics, and he has therefore completely mastered every work that he has undertaken. He has never regarded business, however, as the sole end and aim of existence, but rather as but one phase of life, leaving him time and opportunity for cooperation in those activities whereby the general public is a direct beneficiary.

HOMER OTHO WHITAKER.

Farming has constituted the life work of Homer Otho Whitaker, who is now giving his attention to a valuable and well improved tract of one hundred and sixty acres, situated on section 3, Milam township. His birth occurred in Bloomfield, Indiana, July 9, 1878, his parents being A. J. and Clementine (Edwards) Whitaker. The former was a native of Wisconsin, while the latter was born in the Hoosier state. In early manhood the father removed to Bloomfield and it was there that he became acquainted with the lady whom he afterward made his wife. Unto them were born three children, the son, Homer Otho, being a little lad of only three years at the time of the mother's death, which occurred when she was but twenty-nine years of age. The father, too, passed away at a comparatively early age, being but forty-five years old when called to his final rest on the 7th of July, 1898.

Homer Otho Whitaker, as above stated, was but three years old at the time of his mother's demise, after which he was reared in his father's home to the age of eighteen. In the meantime he pursued his studies in the common schools of his native state, and at that age came to Illinois and secured employment on the farm of his uncle, E. B. Combs, whose sketch also appears in this work. Mr. Whitaker continued to work for his uncle for several years, during which time he gained practical knowledge of the best methods of farm work, so that when he started out in business on his own account he was well qualified to carry it on in a successful manner. It was in 1905 that he made arrangements for having a home of his own by his marriage to Miss Stella May, a daughter of Otto and Emma E. (Richardson) Tietze, of Macon county. She is the eldest of their two children, the date of her birth being July 11, 1887.

Following his marriage, Mr. Whitaker located on a farm in Macon county, cultivating the same until the spring of 1908, when he removed to his present place of one hundred and sixty acres on section 3, Milam township. He has here a good tract of land, and the crops which he annually gathers are the result of his untiring efforts and careful management. In addition to general farming, he raises stock to some extent, and both branches of his business are bringing him a substantial annual income.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Whitaker have been born an interesting little son and daughter: Edward Otto, who was born June 25, 1907; and Elizabeth Clementine, whose birth occurred on the 12th of August, 1908. Mr. Whitaker is a republican in his political belief, although at local elections he does not confine his vote strictly to that party. His fraternal relations are with Dalton City Camp, M. W. A., while his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Presbyterian church, of which his wife is also a member. They are people of the highest respectability and worth, fully meriting the high esteem and regard in which they are uniformly held.

ADAM KELLY.

The year 1856 witnessed the arrival of Adam Kelly in Decatur, and here he resided until his death, being identified through much of the period with carpentering and building interests. He was born in County Down, in the north of Ireland, in 1824, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Kelly, who never came to the United States, but always remained residents of the Emerald isle. There the boyhood and youth of Adam Kelly were passed, and his educational privileges were those afforded by the public schools of his native country. The favorable reports which he heard concerning America and its opportunities, led him to determine to cross the Atlantic, and perfecting his plans, he bade adieu to family, friends and native land and sailed for the new world in March, 1848. Making his way to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he there remained for about nine years, or until he came to Decatur, Illinois, in 1856. Here he resided for seventeen years or until his death. He learned the carpenter's trade when a young man and followed it through the greater part of his life, also engaging in

contracting to some extent. He was a thorough and reliable workman, and was therefore always busy at the trade to which he devoted his energies.

On the 27th of November, 1851, in Philadelphia, Mr. Kelly was united in marriage to Miss Mary McMurtry, a daughter of Archibald McMurtry, of County Antrim, Ireland, who with his wife came to this country in 1858, and remained on this side of the Atlantic until they were called to the home beyond. Mrs. Kelly was born in County Antrim, Ireland, May 6, 1830, and by her marriage became the mother of seven children, of whom two died in infancy. The others are: John, George A., William J., Margaret and Maria.

The death of the husband and father occurred January 24, 1874, when he was in the fiftieth year of his age. He was a member of the Presbyterian church of Decatur, and was loyal and faithful to its teachings. His political allegiance was given to the republican party from its organization, but while he had firm belief in its principles, he never sought nor desired office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs and private interests. His life was upright and honorable and was the visible expression of manly principles and noble purposes. Mrs. Kelly still survives her husband and now resides at No. 1114 West Macon street, in a pleasant home amid many friends who entertain for her warm and kindly regard. She has now made her home in Decatur for more than a half century and has a very wide and favorable acquaintance here.

PAUL SMITH.

For a long period Paul Smith was identified with the business interests of Decatur as a builder and contractor, and many of the buildings of this city and surrounding country stand today as monuments to his skill and ability. He was a native of the Keystone state, his birth having occurred in Harrisburg, March 17, 1838. He was reared in Pennsylvania to the age of six years, when he was brought by his parents to the middle west, the family home being established near LaFayette, Indiana, the father there following agricultural pursuits. The son acquired his education in the district schools near his home and during the summer months was trained in the duties of the home farm, early becoming familiar with the best methods of plowing, planting and harvesting. He remained under the parental roof until he had reached the age of twenty-three years, when, the Civil war having been inaugurated, he joined an Indiana volunteer regiment, remaining at the front about two and a half years.

Returning home after receiving an honorable discharge, Mr. Smith began working at the carpenter's trade in LaFayette, his time being there spent for about three years. He then came to Decatur, and for a similar period was employed at his trade, doing considerable contract work. He then went to Moberly, Missouri, but after spending only about a year and a half in that locality, once more returned to Decatur and continued operations as a builder and contractor. He was awarded the contracts for building many of the substantial structures of this city, which still stand as monuments to his splendid work-

manship. He was ever true to the terms of a contract, and his treatment of his employes was such as to win from all the utmost confidence and respect, while in the closer circle of his friends, he was esteemed for his many sterling qualities of manhood.

Mr. Smith was married in Decatur to Miss Sarah E. Baty, who was born in Ross county, Ohio, August 24, 1841. She accompanied her mother to this city when a little maiden of thirteen years, and from that time to the present has made Decatur her home. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Smith were born three children, Ellis, Nora and Minnie, but all are now deceased.

Mr. Smith was somewhat independent in politics, although he favored the principles and platform of the republican party. However, he voted for men whom he deemed best qualified for office, regardless of party affiliation. He maintained pleasant relations with his old army comrades through his membership in the G. A. R. Post of Decatur. His religious faith was indicated by his membership in the Universalist church. He passed away at Brush College, about three miles east of Decatur, on the 22d of May, 1894, and his remains were interred in the cemetery at that place. Decatur mourned the loss of a representative and valued citizen, widely recognized as a man of honor and of strong force of character. Perhaps the highest tribute that can be paid Mr. Smith is that he was successful in all of his undertakings, and that he so discharged his duties as a citizen and as a business man as to merit the confidence of those who knew him best. His widow occupies a nice home which she owns at No. 560 West North street, and she also owns two good residences on Edward street. She is also well known in Decatur, her many good traits of heart and mind having endeared her to a large circle of friends.

WILLIAM HENRY WALTERS, M. D.

Dr. William Henry Walters is well remembered as a pioneer physician of Decatur and Macon county, where he practiced his profession for thirty-six years, prior to which time he had been located for a few years in Sangamon and Champaign counties, so that he became well known in various parts of central Illinois. His life record covered the intervening years between August 18, 1821, and January 20, 1897. He was born in New Jersey, and on the paternal side came of English ancestry, his father having been born in England. He was married in this country and his death occurred when the son was but a small boy.

William Henry Walters was reared in the state of his nativity to the age of twenty years, during which period he pursued his literary education in the schools of that state. Deciding to enter the medical profession as a life work, to that end he went to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he became a student in Jefferson Medical College of that city. He was graduated with the class of 1849, after which he at once made his way to the then "far west," believing that Illinois offered better opportunities to the young physician than the older east. Accordingly he located in Champaign county, this state, where he re-

mained for a brief period, but in 1851 opened an office in Springfield, where he spent the succeeding decade. In 1861 he came to Decatur, where he continued in the active practice of medicine until the time of his death. For thirty-six years he ministered to the people of this city and surrounding country, during which time he became the loved family physician in many a household and firmly established himself in the public regard as an able, capable physician of wide personal knowledge and marked skill.

On the 19th of September, 1853, Dr. Walters was married in Springfield to Miss Melissa J. Ham, the wedding ceremony being performed by Rev. Bradshaw of that city. Mrs. Walters was born in Jacksonville, Illinois, September 21, 1840, a daughter of John H. Ham, who was born in Frankfort county, Kentucky, in 1810, and was a youth of nineteen years when he located in Illinois.

Unto Dr. and Mrs. Walters were born six children, four sons and two daughters: Charles Henry, who was born in Macon county; Frederick W., who was a native of Champaign county, Illinois, and is now deceased; Margaret Ellen, who was born in Macon county; Rollo H., who is a native of Decatur; Roy C., also born in this city; and Ellis L., whose birth occurred in Rockford, this state.

Dr. Walters was a stanch advocate of the republican party and cast his first presidential vote for William Henry Harrison. He always took an active part in politics so far as his professional duties would permit. His religious faith was indicated by his membership in the Episcopal church of Decatur and his life conformed to its teachings. He was a successful man, having accumulated a competency that supplies his family with all the comforts of life. He passed away at his beautiful home, at No. 671 West Prairie avenue, January 20, 1897, and there his widow and children still reside. He possessed a vigorous personality whose broad generous impulses coupled with sound judgment made him beloved to a degree seldom realized in human experience.

WILLIAM H. BLACK.

William H. Black, master in chancery since October, 1903, and one of the prominent workers in the ranks of the republican party in Macon county, was born in Chicago, July 3, 1866, a son of William and Mary (Leslie) Black, both of whom were natives of Scotland, the father having been born in Edinburgh and the mother in Arbroath. The father was a mechanic, serving a regular apprenticeship in Scotland. On coming to America he took up his abode in Chicago but after a few years removed to Champaign county, Illinois, and purchased a farm on which he resided until 1893. He then moved to Champaign and resided there until his death which occurred August 4, 1901. He made the journey to the United States in 1854 with his brother, father and mother, he paying half the passage for the party and his father paying the other half. This spirit of helpfulness toward his family was one of his marked characteristics and friends and neighbors also benefited by his generous spirit and kindly disposition. Moreover, he was known as an honest, upright citizen, whose word

was considered as good as his bond. He died August 4, 1901, while his wife passed away in March, 1904.

William H. Black pursued his early education in the public schools and afterward attended Chaddock College at Quincy, Illinois, and the Wesleyan University at Bloomington, in which he completed the law course with the class of 1892. Admitted to the bar the same year, he located for practice in Decatur, where he has since followed his profession. Other activities have also claimed his attention and he is widely recognized as one of the prominent leaders of the republican party in this section of the state. For a time he served as chairman of the republican county central committee and his labors in support of the principles in which he believes have been effective and far-reaching. He has also been a leading representative of the Modern Woodmen of America, in behalf of which organization he has delivered many public addresses, taking an active and helpful interest for the good of the society. He acted as state worthy adviser and state lecturer for a time, in which connection he delivered lectures in the western half of New York and in Oklahoma and Indian Territory, when the order was founded in that part of the country. He is likewise a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, also of Macon Lodge, No. 8, A. F. & A. M.; Chapter No. 21, R. A. M.; and Beaumanoir Commandery, K. T. He was chosen to his present office in October, 1903, through appointment of Judge Johns and has since continued in the position, his services being satisfactory to all who have to do with chancery work.

On the 9th of November, 1903, Mr. Black was married to Miss Anna Louise Crocker, of Maroa, Illinois, a daughter of John H. and Louise (Philbrook) Crocker, pioneers of Macon county, and they have one son, William H., Jr. The parents are members of the Presbyterian church and are prominent in the social circles of the city. Mr. Black had but a few hundred dollars when he came to Decatur but has built up a business that has brought him a comfortable competence and his methods have at all times conformed to the strictest business ethics. In manner he is cordial, approachable and genial, and his unfailing loyalty to any cause which he espouses has gained for him the confidence and warm regard of all with whom he has come in contact.

JOHN MILTON LOWRY.

While long years have passed away since John Milton Lowry was an active factor in the public life and affairs of Macon county, more than passing thought should be given him because of his excellent record as a soldier of the Civil war, because of his progressiveness and reliability in business affairs and because of his promptness and capability in the discharge of the public duties that were entrusted to him.

A native of Illinois, John Milton Lowry was born in Clark county, November 2, 1825, at which period the county was a pioneer district in which the work of improvement and progress had been scarcely begun, so that he was reared amid the wild scenes and environments of the frontier. He remained in that county until about ten years of age, when his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William

Lowry, removed with their family to De Witt county, settling near Waynesville, Illinois. John M. Lowry resided in the latter county until about twenty-five years of age and acquired the greater part of his education in that county in attendance at the district schools. He lived upon the home farm and the work of tilling the fields and caring for the crops early became familiar to him. He was busy with the tasks incident to the development of the fields save when in school. After he had reached the age of twenty-five years he joined his brother-in-law, Preston Butler, in the conduct of a grocery business, in which he continued for three years, and at the same time conducted the postoffice at East Main street, Decatur.

On the 17th of February, 1852, Mr. Lowry was united in marriage to Miss Martha M. Pugh, a daughter of Colonel I. C. Pugh, of Decatur, and unto them have been born four children, of whom all are yet living, while all are still residents of Macon county with the exception of William I., who is located in Springfield, Illinois. Elvira E. became the wife of Perry B. Vance, who owns and cultivates a farm of two hundred acres of good land in Macon county. They have three sons: Guy P., Claude L. and Clarke E. Vance. William I. is unmarried and is a printer by trade; Mary A. is at home with her mother; Silas T. is married and resides in Decatur, where he is connected with the fire department, being stationed at engine house No. 1. He has three children: Isaac M., Jessie M. and Marjorie E.

Following his marriage Mr. Lowry devoted his time to bookkeeping and mercantile business until after the outbreak of the Civil war, when he responded to the country's call for troops and spent three years at the front as a member of Company A, Eighth Regiment of Illinois Infantry. He participated in the battle of Pittsburg Landing and other important engagements that were features in the success that finally crowned the Union arms. In his later years he became a member of the Grand Army post of Decatur and thus maintained pleasant relations with those who were his comrades when the country needed the military aid of her loyal sons. He also belonged to the Masonic lodge at Decatur and was quite prominent in public affairs, at all times supporting the projects and measures which he deemed of worth and value to the community.

Mr. Lowry was several times called to public office, serving as justice of the peace for eight years, his decisions being strictly fair and impartial. He was also constable for four years and in that office, as in every other position to which he was called, proved most loyal, prompt and faithful. In politics he was a stanch republican from the organization of the party and did all in his power to promote its growth and insure its success because of his firm belief in its principles. He held membership in the First Methodist Episcopal church of Decatur, gave generously to its support and did all in his power to promote the spread of the gospel. He died on the 8th of April, 1887, at his home on North Church street, and his remains were interred in Greenwood cemetery. While almost a quarter of a century has since passed away, he is yet remembered by many who knew him and who learned to esteem and value him highly because of his many sterling traits of character. He was ever reliable in business, progressive in citizenship, loyal in military service and devoted to his family and friends.

Mr. Lowry still survives her husband and makes her home at No. 726 North Main street. She is one of the oldest among the pioneer women of the city. She attended school in Decatur at the old courthouse where Abraham Lincoln first practiced law. This building is now standing in Fairview park of Decatur, being there maintained because of its historic interest. Mrs. Lowry was a student there in 1836 when a Mr. Gobel was the teacher. She had been brought to the county in 1832 and has remained here throughout the ensuing years. Her father was a soldier in the Black Hawk war in 1832, also of the Mexican war from 1846 until 1847 and later became a colonel in the Civil war. Mrs. Lowry relates many interesting incidents of the early days when Decatur was a village with little commercial or industrial importance. She has ever been deeply interested in what has been accomplished as the years have gone by and is authority concerning many events which have left their impress upon the history of Macon county.

DECATUR COFFIN COMPANY.

The business of the Decatur Coffin Company was begun by a partnership consisting of T. T. Roberts and R. P. Lytle in September, 1872, with a capital not exceeding ten thousand dollars, except what was borrowed. The first building erected was thirty-six by eighty, with a lean-to for the engine room and dry house. In May, 1873, the firm was joined by O. Z. Greene, who put in two thousand five hundred dollars in money and added a credit of six thousand dollars. At this time the firm name was changed to Roberts, Lytle & Company. In 1875 R. P. Lytle secured the postmastership of Decatur, which paid a good salary, and Roberts and Greene purchased his interests, and the firm name was changed to Roberts, Greene & Company. In 1880 the firm was joined by S. R. Gher, who added to the capital of the business eight thousand dollars, and after two years, he not liking the business, Roberts & Greene purchased his interest for twelve thousand dollars cash. The business continued under the firm name of Roberts, Greene & Company until 1882, when it was converted into a stock company, under the corporate name of the Decatur Coffin Company, with a capital of eighty thousand dollars. Roberts and Greene subscribed for this stock in equal shares, with the exception of two shares taken by K. H. Roby, Sr., the attorney for the company. O. Z. Greene was elected president of the company and T. T. Roberts, secretary-treasurer. These men retained their offices until the death of Mr. Greene in 1909. In the meantime they had adopted a policy of interesting men who would help build up the business, among them being C. R. Murphy, G. E. Moeller, C. H. Logan, W. E. Murray, W. D. Kunkle, J. E. Pierce and Charles Walser, and others, several of whom afterward went into other good businesses. G. E. Moeller, C. R. Murphy and C. H. Logan still remain as officers of the company at this time. At the death of O. Z. Greene in 1909 T. T. Roberts was elected president of the company; C. R. Murphy, vice president; and G. E. Moeller, secretary-treasurer.

The company has always been in sympathy and accord with its employes and has never had a strike. They have always been the first to adopt new devices that would improve conditions, and ten years ago installed the Webster vacuum system of heating their buildings which reduced the cost of heating two-thirds. They were also the first in Decatur to equip their plant with an automatic sprinkler system for fire protection, reducing the cost of insurance three-fourths. Later they put in a system of circulating pure air in all rooms where employes have to work. This system changes the air every three minutes protects the health of their employes, and enables them to do more and better work and with less loss of time occasioned by sickness.

The founders of this business have been foremost in their benefactions, contributing to various institutions of the city between 1892 and 1902 over thirty-seven thousand dollars, principally to churches, the James Millikin University and the Young Men's Christian Association. Two years ago they gave eight thousand dollars to the Young Women's Christian Association, and in the early effort to secure a hospital subscribed nine thousand dollars. This company has never advertised its business locally, as the business is not one that appeals to the general public.

J. A. RONEY.

J. A. Roney, for over twenty years past a resident of Decatur and at the present time proprietor of the elevator at Wyckles, Harristown township, was born on a farm near Sullivan, Illinois, August 13, 1844. He is a son of James and Mary Ann (Oxley) Roney. The father having been called away when our subject was an infant, the mother was latter married to her husband's brother, John Roney. They removed to Todds Point, Shelby county, Illinois, where the subject of this review grew to manhood. He received a fair common-school education and remained at home until he was about twenty-one years of age, when he was married and began living upon a farm which he and his sister owned and which was inherited from their father. This farm comprised about three hundred acres, but after a year's experience the place was disposed of and our subject purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in the locality where Dalton City now stands, paying about forty dollars an acre. At the close of ten years he entered the grain mercantile business at Dalton City, where he had charge of a dump instead of an elevator and was in partnership with a Mr. Freeland. There he continued for eight years, in the meantime having sold his farm. His next venture was in the hardware business at Dalton City for five years.

In 1887 Mr. Roney removed to Decatur, where two years later he purchased an interest in the hardware firm of Lytle & Eckels. In 1890 he sold out and for nine years, until 1900, was identified with business interests at Hervey City. Since 1900 he has been owner of the elevator at Wyckles, which has a capacity of about ten thousand bushels and has yielded to him handsome returns upon the investment.

On the 9th of March, 1865, in Moultrie county, Mr. Roney was united in marriage to Miss Emma T. Freeland, who was born in North Carolina, August 6, 1843, a daughter of John J. and Mary (Craig) Freeland. She removed with her parents to Moultrie county when she was about thirteen years of age and there was educated in the public schools and grew to womanhood. Three children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Roney. John S., born September 28, 1866, is a grain dealer of Dalton City. He married Miss Josie Reeder, and they have four children, Mabel, Leta, Fay and John Kenneth. Ella was married to Wilbur Gibson, a real-estate dealer, and lives in Guthrie, Oklahoma. They have one son, Vernon. Ralph T., born on the 7th of May, 1884, was a student of the University of Illinois and later entered the medical department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor but was obliged to give up the study of medicine on account of trouble with his eyes. He is now living at home.

Mr. Roney is an independent republican, being a man who studies closely the character of the candidate before casting his vote. He and the other members of the family are identified with the Presbyterian church, of which he was elder while at Dalton City. He is greatly interested in the study of the Bible and has devoted considerable time as a teacher in the Sunday school. Fraternally he holds membership in Chevalier Bayard Lodge, No. 189, K. P. He has many friends in central Illinois, whom he has made by honorable business dealings and by the exercise of genial social qualities, with which he is abundantly blessed.

ED REESER.

Ed Reeser, engaged in general farming on section 17, Friends Creek township, is an extremely busy man with his farming and stock-raising interests, owning and cultivating one hundred acres of rich and productive land in the home place, together with another tract of sixty acres. He recognizes the fact that diligence and determination are important elements in success and he therefore employs them in the attainment of that prosperity which is the legitimate goal of all honest endeavor. He has lived in Macon county since 1881, arriving here when a young man of twenty years. His birth occurred in York county, Pennsylvania, May 25, 1861, his parents being William and Elizabeth (Good) Reeser, both of whom were born and reared in the Keystone state. Following their marriage they took up their abode there, the father becoming a farmer of York county, where he reared his family and spent his life. He had eleven children, eight sons and three daughters.

Ed. Reeser, the youngest of the family, was reared upon the old homestead farm in Pennsylvania, attended the common schools and through the periods of vacation worked in the fields. He continued with his father until he was grown and in 1881 came west to join a brother, who at that time was in Argenta, Macon county. Here he engaged with his brother in the manufacture of tile, continuing in business for five years. Throughout the period of his residence

in this county he has been numbered among the enterprising and progressive business men, carrying forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes.

On the 7th of January, 1887, Mr. Reeser was married on the farm where he now resides to Miss Mary C. Williams, a native of Friends Creek township and a daughter of Jackson Williams, who was one of the early settlers of Macon county, coming to this state from Ohio. Following his marriage Mr. Reeser purchased one of the Williams farms of one hundred acres and with characteristic energy began its further development. He has brought the fields under a high state of cultivation and has added many modern equipments, so that the farm is lacking in none of the accessories and conveniences of a model farm of the twentieth century. He has erected a modern frame residence, a good barn and other outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock and the farm presents a very neat and attractive appearance. He raises considerable grain and also raises stock, making a specialty of pure blooded and high grade cattle and horses. In addition to his home place he has a farm of sixty acres near by and this he also cultivates and improves.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Reeser have been born three children: Opal, the wife of Arthur Hendrik, a resident farmer of Friends Creek township, by whom she has one child, Mabel; Herbert A., who aids his father in carrying on the home farm; and Irene, who completes the family.

In his political views Mr. Reeser has been a lifelong democrat and has served as a delegate to county conventions. His fellow townsmen, appreciative of his worth and ability and of his progressive citizenship, have chosen him to the office of highway commissioner, while for fifteen years he has been retained in the office of township school trustee and is now a member of the school board. His wife belongs to the Cumberland Presbyterian church at Argenta, and he is a member of the Masonic fraternity, in which he has attained a high degree, belonging to the lodge at Argenta; Monticello Chapter, R. A. M.; Decatur Commandery, K. T. and the Mystic Shrine at Peoria. He was formerly connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows but is not in active relations with the society at the present time. He is recognized throughout the community as a good business man and citizen. He keeps his buildings in excellent repair and the farm presents a very neat and attractive appearance, indicative of the careful management and enterprising spirit of the owner, who for twenty-nine years has been classed with the representative and valued citizens of Macon county.

GUSTAVUS JOHNSON.

A life of well directed activity covering a period of connection with agricultural interests and later with the wholesale grocery and bakery business brought Gustavus Johnson to a position of prominence among the enterprising and prosperous men of Decatur, where his worth was widely acknowledged. He had no special advantages when he started out in life but he possessed determination and energy and as the years passed on he overcame all the difficul-

ties and obstacles that barred his path and worked his way steadily upward to a place of prominence and prosperity. A native of Kentucky, he was born near Hopkinsville, Christian county, on the 16th of October, 1841. He represented one of the old families of that locality. His daughter, Willetta, became the wife of Fred A. Tuttle, who is now a traveling salesman residing in Decatur. They had twin sons: Gustavus Claude, who is on a plantation at Port Gibson, Mississippi; and Henry Clyde, a successful practicing physician now residing in Quincy, Illinois.

Gustavus Johnson was educated in his native county and there remained for about twenty-two years. Subsequent to the outbreak of the Civil war he came to Illinois, settling at Taylorville, Christian county, where he resided for about ten years. His ability and worth as a citizen were recognized there and he was called to public office, serving as sheriff for two years and for four years as deputy sheriff. He also filled the position of constable.

On the 13th of February, 1872, Mr. Johnson was united in marriage to Miss Sarah M. Maxwell, of Taylorville, Illinois, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Maxwell. Her father was a very prosperous farmer of Christian county, widely known as a successful breeder of and dealer in fine stock. The Maxwell family included two daughters, the sister of Mrs. Johnson being Eleanora, who was married in Taylorville in 1867 to Dr. L. H. Clark and later removed to Decatur, where they became widely known.

After removing from the farm to the city Mr. Johnson engaged in the wholesale grocery business in Decatur and later conducted a very successful and extensive business as a wholesale and retail baker. He always held to high standards in the character of service rendered to the public, in the line of goods carried and in the personnel of the house. His energy enabled him to overcome many difficulties and obstacles and gradually he worked his way upward until he stood with that class of men who are regarded as Macon county's most substantial and successful citizens. About three years prior to his death, however, he retired from active business and spent his remaining days in the enjoyment of well earned rest.

Mr. Johnson was entitled to wear the Grand Army button from the fact that he served as a soldier in the Union army during the Civil war, enlisting about 1862. It was after the close of the war that he came to Decatur. Here he held membership in the Grand Army post, and thus maintained pleasant relations with the boys in blue. He was a believer in the teachings and doctrines of the Congregational church and died in that faith July 30, 1910, passing away in the home which his widow now occupies and which had been their place of residence for about twelve years. He always gave much credit to his wife for his success in life, acknowledging his indebtedness to her encouragement, faithfulness and helpfulness. Theirs was an ideal marriage relation, their love and confidence increasing as the years went by. Mr. Johnson also held friendship inviolable and never allowed his success in any way to affect his friendly relations with those whom he had known in his less prosperous days. He remained a resident of this county for about twenty-seven years and genuine personal worth gained him high regard among his fellowmen. Justice and truth found embodiment in his life and he stood as the stalwart defender of whatever he

believed to be for the best interests of the individual and the community at large. Mrs. Johnson still makes her home at No. 757 North Main street and in addition to this property she owns an extensive farm in Christian county besides other city realty.

CHARLES LAUX.

As proprietor of the St. Nicholas Hotel, one of the principal hostelries in northern Illinois, Charles Laux is widely known, and in this connection has formed the acquaintance of many eminent men. His business ability is manifest, moreover, in the success which has attended his efforts. His progressive spirit has at all times actuated him in the conduct of the hotel, and in all its equipments and appointments the St. Nicholas equals the best hostelries in many of the larger cities.

A native of Germany, Mr. Laux was born in the grand duchy of Luxemburg, November 17, 1842, and there spent the first eleven years of his life, after which he sailed with his parents for the new world. The family home was established at Decatur on the 22d of May, 1854. The mother passed away, the following July, and the father survived only until 1859, so that Charles Laux was left an orphan at the age of sixteen. At the age of eighteen he made his way to California and during the period of his residence on the Pacific coast worked in various hotels serving as steward for a time at Sacramento. He remained in the west for four years, during which time his hotel experience brought to him knowledge and ability that enabled him to enter successfully upon the conduct of a hotel following his return to Decatur. In connection with his brothers, Nicholas and Peter, he purchased what was then known as the Cloudas House, formerly known as the Harrell House. Under the new management, however, the hostelry was given the name of the St. Nicholas Hotel, and from the outset it has been maintained as a first class establishment. It was conducted under a partnership arrangement until 1880, when Charles Laux purchased the interest of his two brothers and has since been sole proprietor. In 1892 the old hotel was replaced by the present modern structure, which is five stories in height, containing one hundred and fifty guest rooms, office, spacious dining room and parlor, the building being erected at a cost of one hundred and five thousand dollars. It is supplied with all modern conveniences, and Mr. Laux, ever studying the needs and comforts of his guests has made it a popular resort for the traveling public. The hotel is located in the heart of the business district, at the southwest corner of Lincoln Square. From its earliest history it has been the political headquarters of both the democratic and republican parties, the names of many men of national reputation appearing on the register of the St. Nicholas—among them Abraham Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas, Judge David Davis, Richard J. Oglesby, and many others of equal note. The framers of the Grand Army of the Republic drew up the original code of the army in the parlors of the St. Nicholas, and this act alone will make Decatur famous after the last veteran of the Civil war has been called to his reward.

Aside from his business interests Mr. Laux has not been unknown in the life and activity of the city. While he has never sought public office he was chosen to the position of city treasurer, in which he served for two years. He has cooperated in many movements that have had for their object the welfare and development of Decatur, and no one questions his loyalty to the city which has so long been the place of his residence. His study of the political questions and issues of the day has led him to give stanch support to the principles of democracy, and yet his friends are as numerous among the advocates of the republican party as among those whose political views are similar to his own.

FRANK Le FORGEE.

Frank A. Le Forgee, who for twenty-one years was engaged in the real-estate business in Decatur and was known as one of the prominent representatives of that field of activity, was born near Flemingsburg, in Fleming county, Kentucky, April 21, 1838, his parents being Ayers and Lorinda Le Forgee. The father, who devoted his life to general agricultural pursuits, remained in Kentucky until the latter part of his life, when he came to Macon county, Illinois, his children having previously located in this section.

Frank A. Le Forgee spent his youthful days in the county of his nativity, being reared under the parental roof, while his education was acquired in the old-time subscription schools there. On attaining his majority he sought his fortune elsewhere and made his way to Illinois, becoming a resident of Decatur, where he maintained his residence much of the time until his death. He was, however, for a few years engaged in farming with his brothers in this county and later he became proprietor of a grocery store in Decatur, which he conducted for a few years on Merchant street. At one time he was the owner of a factory and was connected with a book store in Decatur. He was perhaps best known, however, because of his real-estate operations, which covered a period of twenty-one years, so that at the time of his death he was one of the oldest real-estate dealers in this city. He thoroughly informed himself concerning property values, knew the location of every available piece of property in the city and negotiated many important realty transfers which constituted features in the prosperity and development of Decatur as well as in his own success. From time to time as opportunity offered he made judicious investments in real estate and at his demise left to his widow a nice home and other property.

On the 3d of April, 1873, in this city, Frank A. Le Forgee was married to Miss Mary Ellen Barton, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Barton, of Decatur. The marriage ceremony was performed by the Rev. Henry Soule, of Decatur, and the young couple began their domestic life here. Unto them was born one son, Barton B., whose birth occurred in Decatur, March 11, 1874, and who passed away in Macon county, April 2, 1890, his remains being interred in one of the city cemeteries.

The father passed away April 1, 1894, on his way from Sacramento, California, to Ogden, Utah. His remains were then brought back to Decatur and were

interred in Greenwood cemetery. He held membership in the Christian church, in which he served as an elder and he was at one time a member of the Good Templars lodge of Decatur, showing that his aid and influence were ever given on the side of temperance, morality, truth and justice. He never seemed to care for public office but always voted with the republican party and in his later years took an active part in promoting its principles and securing its success. He was deeply interested in everything pertaining to the welfare and upbuilding of the city and to this end held membership in and cooperated with the Business Men's Association. His life was actuated by a spirit of enterprise and progress and he carried forward to successful completion whatever he undertook. He possessed laudable ambition and firm purpose but, while he won success, his path was never strewn with the wreck of other men's fortunes. His business ability enabled him to leave his widow in comfortable financial circumstances, her property holdings including a nice home and other Decatur realestate. She, too, is a devoted member of the Christian church and she resides at No. 150 West North street.

BYRD L. DAVIS.

Byrd L. Davis, one of the highly successful business men of Decatur, owes his prosperity to a laudable ambition which has always been directed along legitimate channels. His career presents a striking example of what may be accomplished by one making his own way in the world who in earlier years is willing to practice self-denial in order that later he and those dependent upon him may possess an abundance.

Mr. Davis is a native of Macon county, born June 28, 1869, and is a son of Henry W. and Martha (Stickle) Davis. The father was also a native of this county, where he became a farmer, stock-raiser and nursery man. In 1879 he removed to Decatur and entered the livery business, in which he continued until his death in 1896, when he was sixty-two years of age. He belonged to a family of nine children, one of whom, John Davis, removed to Kansas in 1875 and was elected to congress, becoming known as one of the leading citizens of the state. He departed this life in 1900. The father of our subject, was identified with the republican party and while he was not an office seeker he served as supervisor of his township. Joseph Davis, the paternal grandfather, was a native of Kentucky, the family originally coming from Virginia. He was a pioneer of Macon county and was well known as a trader. He drove mules to Chicago, where he traded them for wagons, which he afterward sold to farmers in central Illinois. The grandfather of our subject on the maternal side was John Stickle, who was a native of Pennsylvania and emigrated to Illinois at an early day.

After receiving his early education in the district schools Byrd L. Davis came with his parents to Decatur, where he completed his studies in the high school. After laying aside his books he engaged in farming for a time in Champaign county, Illinois, but in 1893 returned to Decatur, where he entered the livery

business, in which he has ever since continued. He began at No. 564 North Water street but later sold this stable and opened another at No. 140 East Cerro Gordo street. In 1896 he took charge of his father's barn at 564 North Water street and in April, 1899, removed to 140 South Main street, but is now located at No. 128 North Franklin street, where he conducts the leading livery and transfer business of Decatur. He has a number of automobiles and keeps everything up-to-date, all his carriages being rubber-tired. He employs thirty-five or forty men and on account of the excellence of his service has gained a reputation which has made his name favorably known throughout central Illinois. In 1903 he purchased the undertaking establishment of Peter Perl & Son, which is now conducted under the title of Hawkins Davis & Company. He has been interested in rice lands in Texas and mines in Gilpin county, Colorado, and in 1905 purchased one hundred and forty acres of land on section 5, Decatur township, this county, which he still owns.

In 1895 Mr. Davis was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Smart, a daughter of James Smart, of Shelbyville, Illinois, and six children have come to brighten their home: Ethyl Ann, who was born September 10, 1896; Fleta May; Josephine; Aileen; Byrd L., Jr.; and Bertha D.

Although not connected with any religious organization, his interest in religious institutions is manifest by the strong support he has given the Young Men's Christian Association in Decatur, contributing liberally toward the erection of its building. His wife is a valued member of the Baptist church. Fraternally he is identified with the blue lodge and chapter of the Masonic order at Decatur and also with Easterly Camp, No. 1626, Modern Woodmen of America. He has many friends in Decatur and Macon county, who have always found him to be active, energetic and capable in his various enterprises and worthy of every confidence. For two terms he served as director of the Chamber of Commerce of Decatur. By a useful and honorable career he has established a reputation for integrity which is worth vastly more than great wealth gained through questionable means.

JOSHUA HUBBARD.

As the years are passing the ranks of the Civil war veterans are fast becoming thinned as one by one answers to the last roll call. The country owes to its boys in blue a debt of gratitude that can never be paid and it is found, other things being equal, that the country has no more loyal citizens than those who shouldered a musket and marched to the defense of the Union in the darkest hour of our national history. Among this number was Joshua Hubbard and it is meet, therefore, that mention be made of him in this volume.

He was born at Columbus, Indiana, August 23, 1845. His father, John C. Hubbard, was a native of Middletown, Connecticut, born February 26, 1794. He followed merchandising throughout his active business life and removed from Connecticut to Indiana, where he died on the 29th of June, 1853. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Hannah Brice, was born in Connecticut and died October 21, 1846.

Joshua Hubbard was educated in the schools of Columbus, Indiana but when young left home owing to his father's death, which brought upon him the necessity of providing for his own support. He worked as a farm hand in various places when but a boy in years and was a youth of but sixteen when he offered his services to the government in defense of the Union during the Civil war, enlisting on the 17th of September, 1861, as a member of Company G, Thirty-third Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He was enrolled with that regiment at Columbus under Captain J. C. Dilla and was honorably discharged February 27, 1864, at Christiana, Tennessee, for on the 23d of that month he had reenlisted as a veteran. He received his final discharge July 21, 1865, at Louisville, Kentucky. Following his second enlistment he was under command of Captain Samuel D. Helman and served throughout the entire war. While on active duty at the front he was captured and was sent to Libby prison, where he remained until paroled. He afterward rejoined his regiment and during the period of his service participated in many hotly contested battles and skirmishes, including the engagements of Cumberland Gap, Rogers Gap, Tazewell, Richmond, Kentucky; Thompson Station, Tennessee; Resaca New Hope Church Gilgal, Culps Farm, Kenesaw Mountain, Pumpkin Vine, Marietta, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta, Turner's Ferry, Savannah, Blackville, Bentonville, Goldsborough and Raleigh. From the ranks he was promoted to corporal.

Following the war Mr. Hubbard returned to Indiana, where he began farming on his own account, and was thus engaged until he came to Illinois in 1867. For thirty-two years thereafter he carried on farming in this state, at the expiration of which period he took up his abode in the city of Decatur and now makes his home at No. 1130 North Monroe street. In his business he was diligent and persevering, and his success was attributable entirely to his own labors and honorable effort.

Mr. Hubbard was married in Decatur on the 14th of January, 1869, to Miss Hannah E. Kaylor, the wedding ceremony being performed by Rev. James C. Daily. Mrs. Hubbard was born in Columbus, Ohio, March 13, 1850, a daughter of Jacob and Rachel (Street) Kaylor. Her father, a farmer by occupation, was born in Maryland, April 14, 1818, and died in Decatur, March 4, 1900, when in the eighty-second year of his age. His wife, who was born in Maryland, February 22, 1817, died in Decatur, April 14, 1900, and her remains were laid to rest in Boiling Springs cemetery. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Hubbard removed from Maryland to Ohio at an early day and there spent the remainder of his life. The maternal grandfather also went from Maryland to Ohio and continued a resident of that state until his life's labors were ended in death.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard were born six children: Charles A., who was born November 21, 1869, and was married December 25, 1893, in Warrensburg, Illinois, to Myrtle Purdon, who is now living in Oklahoma and has a family of four children—Dixie E., Freda I., Joshua G. and Beulah E. John J., was born in Macon county, January 22, 1871, and died on the 11th of January, 1872. Elva L., born in Wichita, Kansas, March 24, 1873, was married December 24, 1891, to John E. Albert at Warrensburg, Illinois, where they now live. Their children are six in number—Louisa E., Vonna I., Ruby S., Ruth E., Lawrence

E. and John E., all yet living. Clarence W. Hubbard, born July 26, 1880, in Macon county, died August 6, 1881. Iva M., born in this county, November 15, 1882, was married in St. Louis, January 28, 1909, to J. F. Richter, Jr., who is now an alderman of Decatur. They have one child, Mildred E. Leslie J., born in Macon county, August 8, 1888, is employed in a flour mill at Lamar, Colorado.

Mr. Hubbard has always been a republican in politics since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He has served as commissioner of highways and in various other local offices. He is now interested in farming in Oklahoma, where he owns good property, but makes his home in Decatur. He belongs to Dunham Post, No. 141, G. A. R., of Decatur and is a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church. He is recognized as one of Macon county's best citizens and is today as true and loyal to the country and it best interests as he was when he followed the old flag on southern battlefields. His record has at all times been that of an honorable man and progressive, public-spirited citizen, and he well merits representation in this volume.

WILLIAM P. SANNER.

An attractive residence standing in the midst of a well cultivated and productive tract of two hundred and ninety-six acres, located on section 18, Milam township, is the property of William P. Sanner, who owes his success to his own well directed labors and progressive business methods. Mr. Sanner is a native of Illinois, born in Shelby county, October 6, 1866, and is the eldest in a family of nine children whose parents are Edward B. and Naomi (Pierson) Sanner, who were likewise born in the Prairie state. Extended mention of the parents is made in connection with the sketch of Albert E. Sanner on another page of this work.

William P. Sanner was afforded such educational advantages as are to be had through the medium of the common schools, while his training at farm labor was received under the direction of his father. After putting aside his text-books he continued on the home farm, giving his father the benefit of his services until the time of his marriage on the 17th of January, 1893, when he established a home of his own by his union with Miss Annie M. Otto, a daughter of August and Augusta (Derfur) Otto. Her father was born in Germany, while her mother claims Missouri as the place of her nativity. Mr. Otto came to the new world with his mother during his early boyhood days, his father having died in Germany. The family home was established in Illinois and it was in Bunker Hill, this state, that he wedded Miss Augusta Derfur. Unto him and his wife were born ten children, of whom Mrs. Sanner is the third in order of birth, her natal day being January 8, 1871.

Following their marriage the young couple took up their abode in Shelby county, Illinois, Mr. Sanner operating land belonging to his father. When he had passed five successful years in this way, during which period he accumulated some money, he returned to Macon county and purchased the farm on which

he today makes his home, this place comprising two hundred and ninety-six acres of arable and productive land situated on section 18, Milam township. It was in 1897 that Mr. Sanner bought this land and ere his removal to the place he erected a modern residence, which is supplied with all the accessories that add so much to the comfort of the members of the household. While he gives much of his time and attention to the cultivation of various grains adapted to the soil in central Illinois, he likewise raises stock for the market, and both branches of his business are so well managed that he is meeting with creditable success.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Sanner has been blessed with seven children, three sons and four daughters, as follows: Arthur O., who was born May 16, 1894; William R., whose birth occurred February 7, 1896; Nora A., born July 9, 1897; Daisy L., September 19, 1899; Edward B., January 12, 1902; Lena D., May 15, 1904; and Augusta N., April 30, 1909.

In politics Mr. Sanner is a stanch republican but aside from filling the office of road commissioner for one term he has never been active in public affairs. Fraternally he is connected with Moweaqua Lodge, No. 274, I. O. O. F.; and Beacon Lodge, No. 434, K. P. Both he and his wife are Methodists in religious faith, holding membership with Sanner Chapel in Penn township, Shelby county. He is a man of high ideals and honorable business methods and if the prosperity which he has already achieved is any criterion of his future success, he will undoubtedly find a place among the leading citizens of Macon county, for he is yet a comparatively young man.

JOHN WESLEY HARTLEY.

In the death of John Wesley Hartley Decatur lost one of her worthy citizens who had been an active factor in business life and who had proved his loyalty in citizenship by active service as a soldier in the Mexican and Civil wars. He was born in Charlestown, Indiana, March 2, 1828, a son of Hugh and Nancy (Huckleberry) Hartley, who, after residing in Indiana for a number of years, came to Illinois and settled in Jefferson county, where they made their home until called to their final rest. The father had become the owner of a good farm property and at his death left an estate covering many acres of land. Their children were: James, Sidwell, William A., Andrew J., Martha J., Clara, John W. and Mary A. Hartley.

John W. Hartley spent his youthful days in his parents' home in what was then a pioneer district. His educational privileges were somewhat limited, owing to the primitive condition of the schools, yet he made good use of his opportunities and throughout his life learned many valuable lessons in the school of experience, becoming a practical business man who looked at life from a liberal standpoint. He arrived in Macon county in 1847, at which time he took up his abode in Decatur, becoming identified with the business affairs of this city in connection with a grocery and bakery enterprise.

It was not long after his arrival here that Mr. Hartley established a home of his own through his marriage, on the 2d of March, 1852, to Miss Nancy Carter, of this city, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James K. Carter. The wedding ceremony was performed by the Rev. John W. Tyler, and unto Mr. and Mrs. Hartley was born a son, Charles Wesley, whose birth occurred in Decatur, August 20, 1855, and who is now residing with his mother in this city, their home being at No. 877 North Main street.

An interesting chapter in the life history of John Wesley Hartley covers his military experience. He had not yet attained his majority when he enlisted for service in the Mexican war, doing active duty in defense of American interests in the contest with the Mexican forces. In 1861 he again responded to the country's call for troops, becoming a first lieutenant of Company H, Fourteenth Regiment of Illinois Infantry, and by reenlistment he served for three years, doing active duty as a defender of the stars and stripes. In both connections he made a creditable military record.

He held membership in the Christian church of Decatur and belonged also to the Odd Fellows and Masonic lodges, being most loyal to the teachings of these orders and exemplifying in his life the charitable and benevolent spirit upon which they are founded. He reached the venerable age of seventy-two years, passing away on the 13th of June, 1900, at which time he was laid to rest in Greenwood cemetery. He had been a resident of the county for a half century and was well known among its citizens. His life record was one which would bear close investigation and scrutiny, for he had always been loyal to the best interests of the community, had been straightforward in business, faithful in friendship and devoted to family ties.

ALBERT REYNOLDS TAYLOR, PH. D., LL. D.

Albert Reynolds Taylor, president of The James Millikin University, was born in a log cabin on a farm in Putnam county, Illinois. His mother was of sturdy Quaker stock and his father a Cumberland Presbyterian. Both were industrious and God-fearing. Farming, the district schools of the later '50s and the war period were the earliest factors in the development of the future educational leader. At this period of his life, Albert Taylor dreamed of future success at the machinist's trade, for which he possessed a natural aptitude, and for some time he gratified his desire for the use of tools and became an excellent machinist. He still retains great interest in machinery of all kinds.

Leaving the bench and tools of the machine shop, the future administrator entered a store, were he learned the principles of trade and industry and gained a knowledge of men. In 1864 he enrolled as a student in the Model School of the Illinois State Normal University at Normal. Later he attended Knox College at Galesburg, Illinois, but entered Lincoln University at Lincoln, Illinois, in January, 1869, from which he graduated with the class of 1872. On the completion of his course at Lincoln University, he was offered a tutorship, which was accepted reluctantly as he had a desire to study law. The work at Lincoln proved so successful that before the end of the first year he was of-

fered a full professorship as head of the department of natural sciences, in which he remained until his election to the presidency of the Kansas State Normal School in 1882. For nineteen years President Taylor presided over the Kansas State Normal School. He found it with a small building and an attendance of four hundred students. When he left it in 1901 the attendance was over two thousand and the buildings were large and well suited for their use. Six or more years before he resigned the presidency of the State Normal, it had become the largest teachers' training school under state control in the world and had an international reputation.

The demands upon him for lectures were many and his vacations were largely spent in making lecture tours. Yet he found time to write articles for periodicals, religious and professional, to write books, and to do a multitude of things that seemed almost impossible for one so busy. One of his books, The Study of the Child, published by D. Appleton Company, belongs to the International Education Series. Over twenty-five thousand copies of this book have been sold. It has been translated into the Japanese and Spanish languages. He has also written the following named books: The Government of the State and Nation, Apple Blossoms, Civil Government in Kansas, The Church at Work in the Sunday School, Among Ourselves, being a joint author of the first two named.

To resign an assured life position as president of such an institution after all difficulties had been surmounted and the future promised more of ease in the enjoyment of a great work accomplished to respond to the call of his church and of the friends of his youth to return to Illinois and build from the foundation to the tower, a modern university was a most momentous and difficult decision and yet he had no hesitation in doing it as duty appeared clear.

President Taylor has served as president of several educational and religious organizations, local, state and national. He was president of the National Council of Education in 1899. He was the organizer of the University Club of Decatur and its president for three years; of the Federation of Illinois Colleges, of which he was president for some years; and of the Presbyterian Brotherhood of Illinois, of which he is president. He is a member of the National Council of the Presbyterian Brotherhood of America and of the Religious Educational Committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church, being chairman of an important committee in each. He is also chairman of two important committees of the Illinois synod and a member of the board of directors of McCormick Theological Seminary. He was chairman of the educational commission in charge of the Kansas state exhibit at the World's Fair in Chicago, and a vice president for Kansas at the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo. He was a member of the state board of education in Kansas for nineteen years and for some time of the state text-book commission. He was awarded the degree of Ph. D. by his alma mater in 1882 and the degree of LL. D. by Cumberland University in 1906. As president of The James Millikin University, he has in seven years built up an institution at Decatur, Illinois, which comprises eight schools with an enrollment of over eleven hundred students and a faculty composed of some sixty members. His success has amply confirmed the public judgment of his administrative powers.

Governing without many set rules, he appeals to the highest instincts of honor. Severe he can be when severity is needed but in his severity there is an intuitive sympathy and an abiding hope that acts as an appeal. His faith in the ultimate triumph of the right cannot be shaken. He has often written "There is no longing of a noble soul that hath not somewhere its satisfaction." When others despair, he hopes and labors on; others may retire in defeat but he knows how to win a victory from defeat. His pride in the university, its cleanliness, its strength and its walls of brick and stone is always strong but never so marked as is his pride in the clean hearts and pure minds of the young men and women of his flock in whose mental and spiritual development he finds his supremest joy.

J. R. RACE.

The life history of J. R. Race constitutes an important chapter in the annals of Decatur and Macon county inasmuch as he was one of the pioneer citizens who aided in planting the seeds of civilization and development here, and, moreover, as a merchant he figured for many years as one of the leading business men whose activities constitute a most potent element in the city's material growth and progress. At the present writing he is living retired, having withdrawn from active connection with commercial interests, deriving his income from judicious investments which include very extensive landholdings. He has now passed the eighty-second milestone on life's journey and is one of the most honored as well as the most venerable citizens of Decatur.

He was born in Hampshire county, Virginia, in December, 1828, a son of James W. Race, who removed with his family to Ohio, settling near Columbus, in the boyhood days of J. R. Race, who was there reared upon a farm and experienced the usual hardships and privations that come with the development of a farm in a frontier district. His education was limited to the opportunities afforded in the subscription schools. The little schoolhouse had a puncheon floor and in one end of the room was a large fireplace for which the older boys had to supply the fuel in turn, hauling in the logs.

In time J. R. Race began farming on his own account and was identified with agricultural interests in Ohio until 1854, when he drove across the country with horse and buggy in search of a location. On that trip he visited Macon county, which greatly pleased him with its natural advantages, and in 1855 he returned to take up his permanent abode here. He then disposed of his horse and buggy for five hundred and fifty dollars. He first came to the county in 1854 and invested in swamp land at twenty-five cents per acre, securing a half section. In 1855 he made another investment and sold his first land for thirty dollars per acre. In the year of his first visit to the county and also in the year in which he took up his permanent abode here he entered land, in this way securing seven hundred and twenty acres, some of which he has since sold for three hundred dollars per acre. He has always regarded real estate as one of the safest investments and as his financial resources have increased he has added to

his holdings from time to time until at the present writing, in 1911, he owns more than thirty-six hundred acres of valuable farm land.

In the fifty-six years of his residence here Mr. Race has witnessed many changes, the appearance of the county having undergone a complete transformation, owing to the work of improvement, development and cultivation that has been carried steadily forward. When he arrived there were no mills through the county and farmers had to go to the little hamlet of Decatur to have their grist ground once or twice a year. Not only did Mr. Race become identified with agricultural interests but also was one of the first merchants of Decatur. His entire life has been a very busy one and until the time of his retirement he had few leisure hours. When in Ohio he had worked for wages in the employ of neighboring farmers, receiving less than twenty dollars per month for his services. From that sum, however, he saved between sixteen and seventeen hundred dollars that constituted his capital upon his removal to Illinois. In all of his business ventures he has displayed sound judgment and keen discrimination. He has continuously studied conditions and thus has been able to make very wise investments in property, being now one of the most extensive and prosperous landholders of the county, his farms lying north and east of Decatur. He became, perhaps, even more widely known through his mercantile connections, remaining for many years one of the leading representatives of commercial interests in Decatur. The store which he erected on Merchant street in 1865 was destroyed in a recent large fire that caused so much damage in this city, his loss being ten thousand dollars. The store had a depth of one hundred and forty feet. For a considerable time J. R. Race was associated in his mercantile activities with his brother, James M. Race, under the firm style of J. R. Race & Company. This was continued until 1889, when the business was reorganized under the name of the Race Clothing Manufacturing Company, the output, including overalls, duck coats and shirts. Not only were a large number of operators employed in the factory but also five traveling salesmen were upon the road introducing the output to the trade. The Race Clothing Manufacturing Company maintained a continuous and prosperous existence until 1904.

In 1857 Mr. Race was united in marriage to Miss Mary Wolgamot, a native of Maryland and a daughter of a prominent money loaner of Springfield, Illinois, and a very influential man of that city. At his death Mr. Race was made administrator of his estate. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Race were born two daughters and a son: Mrs. Edith Vance, of Los Angeles, California, who has two children, Margaret and a baby girl born in 1910; and Ella and Arthur, at home. The wife and mother passed away August 5, 1905, her death proving an irreparable blow to the family, where as a loving wife and mother she was held in the most tender regard.

In 1870 Mr. Race erected his present residence, a commodious and substantial brick dwelling which, standing in the midst of spacious and well kept grounds, is an ornament to the city. He still holds his membership in the Decatur Country Club. He has practically retired from all connection with business affairs save that he occasionally passes upon some question relative to the disposition of his investments. He is a remarkably well preserved man

to whom has been accorded the precious prize of keen mentality through the evening of life. His activity has been a potent force in Decatur's upbuilding and the county's advancement, and his work of vital worth in the promotion of the city's best activities and consequent prosperity. He has lived to witness the transformation of Decatur from a small village into a city of metropolitan proportions and interests, and the public accord him prominent recognition among those who have been instrumental in bringing about this result.

CHARLES BELL SMITH, M. D.

With a nature that could never be content with mediocrity, Charles Bell Smith has forged ahead in his professional career, his comprehensive knowledge of the principles of medicine and surgery and his ability as displayed in practice winning him a prominent position in the ranks of the medical profession in Decatur. His father, William B. Smith, is a well known agriculturist of South Wheatland township and it was upon the old home farm there that Dr. Smith was born March 18, 1872. He was called Charles Bell, the latter name being given in honor of the Rev. Bell, a Presbyterian minister, whose denominational faith has also found an adherent in his namesake. The boy was reared to the age of sixteen upon the home farm and his preliminary education was acquired in the district schools and supplemented by a year's study in the high school of Decatur. He afterward engaged in teaching in Oreana, Argenta and Cherry Grove but his ambition was in the direction of other professional activity and he regarded the work of the schoolroom merely as a preliminary step to other labor.

He read medicine under the direction of Dr. M. H. Farmer and afterward entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Chicago, the medical department of the University of Illinois, from which he was graduated with the class of 1895. He afterward served as assistant surgeon on the Mexican Central Railroad at Tampico until December of that year, when he located for practice in Decatur and soon afterward received the appointment of county physician here. In March, 1896, he opened an office for the regular practice and on the expiration of the term of his office as county physician in 1897, like many another young physician, he started out in search of a better location, spending a few years at different points. Deciding at length to locate in Ohio, he began practice in Toledo, where he remained for six years. He then returned to his native county and once more located in Decatur in March, 1906. He feels perfectly satisfied with the city as a location and has been accorded a large general practice, in the care of which he has displayed marked ability, energy and enterprise. He keeps in touch with the advanced thought of the profession through his membership relations with the Decatur Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He is now examining physician for the Modern Woodmen camp, for the American Star Equity Insurance Company and other fraternal organizations.

On the 18th of August, 1897, in Chicago, Dr. Smith was united in marriage to Miss Clara Louise Evans, a native of Portage, Wisconsin, and of Welsh descent. Her literary education was obtained in Whalen's Academy at Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, after which she entered the Women's Medical College of Chicago, pursuing there a four years' course, but on account of illness she did not graduate from that institution and the following year entered the Illinois Medical College, in which she spent a year, so that she was graduated in 1895—the same year in which her husband completed his course. During that time she acted as assistant in gynecology to Dr. Fred Byron Robinson and Dr. William Rittenhouse, two eminent members of the profession. She practiced in Chicago for two years and was then married. This union has been blessed with two children, Harold Clair and Chester Paul, aged respectively eleven and ten years and now students in the public schools. Mrs. Smith does not engage in active practice now, giving her attention to the duties of the household and the care of her children. The words of praise which her husband speaks of her as wife, mother and as a physician indicate something of the contentment and good cheer which are prevailing elements in their pleasant home, which is situated at No. 1305 North Edward street.

The Doctor and his family are members of the Second Presbyterian church and his political allegiance is given to the democracy. He has no time nor inclination for political office, however, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his professional duties, which he discharges with a sense of conscientious obligation that makes him an able and successful practitioner.

WILBUR CAMPBELL WOOD, M. D.

The ability of Dr. Wilbur Campbell Wood as a practitioner of medicine and surgery is demonstrated in the liberal patronage accorded him and in the expressions of regard on the part of his fellow practitioners. This is an age of specialization in which the highest degree of skill is attained by those who concentrate their energies and efforts upon a particular branch of practice. In accordance with this tendency of the times Dr. Wood has become a specialist in gynecology and abdominal surgery and his research and investigation along those lines are constantly promoting his efficiency. He was born in Decatur in 1866 and is a grandson of a pioneer physician, B. C. Wood. Two of his uncles, E. W. and D. N. Moore, were also numbered among the early medical practitioners in Decatur. His parents were George M. and Minnie E. (Edmundson) Wood, whose family numbered four children.

Dr. Wood of this review pursued his education in the public schools of Decatur, passing through consecutive grades to his graduation from the high school with the class of 1884. He then pursued a course in the Illinois College of Pharmacy in Chicago and at different times has been connected with the drug business at Decatur, Springfield and Tuscola, Illinois. He prepared for the practice of medicine and surgery as a student in the Northwestern University of Chicago, from which he was graduated on the 13th of June, 1895. He

put his theoretical training to the practical test in an active service of eighteen months as interne in the Mercy Hospital of Chicago and subsequently spent two years in charge of the hospital of the Illinois Steel Company of that city. In 1899 he returned to Decatur and is now serving on the staff of St. Mary's Hospital in this city. He is also examining physician for several old line insurance companies and in his private practice he is making a specialty of gynecology and abdominal surgery, in which connection he has gained distinction as a most successful practitioner. He belongs to the Decatur Medical Society, the Central Illinois District Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Society and the American Medical Association.

In 1898 Dr. Wood was united in marriage to Miss Marion Dimmick, of Washington, D. C., and to them have been born two sons and a daughter: Wilbur Stuart, Annetta Lois and Robert Allen. Fraternally Dr. Wood is connected with Ionic Lodge, No. 312, A. F. & A. M., and with the Knights of Pythias. His religious faith is indicated in his membership in the First Methodist Episcopal church and his political endorsement is given to the men and measures of the republican party. He is neglectful of none of the duties of citizenship nor of his obligations to his fellowmen, but his attention is chiefly given to the practice of his profession, which is constantly growing in volume and importance.

ALFRED L. GIDEON.

The contemplation of a long life of labor, crowned with honorable retirement, is a matter of satisfaction to all. One feels that this is but the just reward of diligence intelligently directed. Mr. Gideon is numbered among Decatur's citizens to whom has been vouchsafed this period of rest. For many years he carried on business as a carpenter but is now living retired at No. 1249 North Water street.

He was born in Champaign county, Ohio, in 1826, a son of Henry Gideon. His youthful days were passed in the Buckeye state but when seventeen years of age he traveled across the prairies with a wagon and yoke of oxen, passing through Decatur en route to Sangamon county, Illinois. There he established his home and remained until 1850. He began learning the blacksmith's trade in that county and remained there continuously with the exception of one year, which he devoted to service as a soldier in the Mexican war, becoming a private under General Winfield Scott. After being mustered out he returned to Sangamon county, where he resided until 1850, when he located at Mount Pulaski, Logan county, where he followed the blacksmith's trade for twelve years, and then turned his attention to carpentering. Later he began contracting on his own account, being thus identified with building operations at that place until 1877. In that year he removed from Logan county to Macon county and has since been a resident of Decatur. He became connected with farming interests in this part of the state and is still the owner of a fine farming property of two hundred and forty acres in Douglas county, from which he derives a substantial annual income.

Mr. Gideon has been married three times. He first wedded Elizabeth Clark, who died leaving a son, David, who is a graduate of medical schools of Cincinnati and of St. Louis and is now a practicing physician of Sumner, Illinois. His present wife, whom he married on the 8th of July, 1902, was formerly Mrs. Cora B. Hayes, a lady of natural refinement, who presides with gracious courtesy and hospitality over his home.

Mr. Gideon ranks high in Masonry, holding membership with Mount Pulaski Lodge, A. F. & A. M.; Macon Chapter, No. 21, R. A. M., of Decatur; and Beaumanoir Commandery, No. 9, K. T. He has ever been an exemplary representative of the craft, portraying in his life the beneficent spirit of the order, which is based upon mutual helpfulness and brotherly kindness. In all of the varied relations of life he has ever commanded the good will and confidence of his fellowmen and in business affairs he has been found thoroughly reliable and trustworthy as well as energetic and enterprising. These qualities brought him success and now enable him to live retired with capital sufficient to enjoy all of the comforts of life.

JOHN W. SMITH.

The ranks of the Civil war veterans are fast becoming decimated as one by one they respond to the final roll call, but among those who yet survive to enjoy the fruits of peace for which they so valiantly risked their lives is numbered John W. Smith. He is, furthermore, a representative of a family bearing a remarkable war record, five sons and the father all having responded to their country's call in her great hour of need, serving during the long and sanguinary struggle and returning at last to their home safe and uninjured. His military service alone would entitle Mr. Smith to a prominent place in this record, but he is also deserving of mention because of the place which he won for himself in industrial circles of Decatur during the period of his active connection with business interests here.

He traces his ancestry back to Captain John Smith, of England, whose son, the grandfather of John W. Smith, became the founder of this branch of the Smith family in America, locating in Virginia in early days. He served in the Mexican war under General Harrison and died at Nashville, Tennessee. The maternal grandfather, George Stevens, was born in Indiana and in that state spent his entire life.

Edwin D. Smith, the father of our subject, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, February 2, 1811. He was a carpenter by trade and came to Illinois in 1865, locating in Woodford county, where he remained until 1880. That year witnessed his arrival in Decatur and here he made his home for ten years, being closely identified with the business interests of this city during that period. In 1890 he removed westward to Kansas and there passed away, his remains being laid to rest at Wichita. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Stevens, was born in Carroll county, Indiana, and in 1848 was called to her final rest. Edwin D. Smith had enlisted for service in the Union army at the

time of the Civil war, acting for nine months as deputy provost marshal at Plymouth, Indiana. He held membership in Dunham Post, No. 141, G. A. R., at Decatur.

John W. Smith, whose name introduces this record, was born in White county, Indiana, on the 6th of July, 1842, and was a little boy of six years when his mother passed away. At that time he left home and lived with different families until twelve years of age, when the necessity of earning his own livelihood caused him to seek work as a farm hand, working in that capacity for various farmers of the locality for about six years. With no chance for attending school during the period of his boyhood and youth, Mr. Smith supplemented this lack of tuition by hard study during the hours when not busily engaged at farm labor. In the school of experience, too, he acquired that broad knowledge which comes from close observation and contact with the outside world and which, supplemented by an extensive course of reading in later years, more than compensated for the earlier education denied him.

Mr. Smith worked at farming until eighteen years of age, when he learned the marble cutter's trade, which he followed successfully in Plymouth, Indiana, until the outbreak of the Civil war. At that time the spirit of patriotism which had been aroused within him by the attempt of the south to overthrow the Union caused him to put aside all personal interests, and on the 1st of December, 1861, at Plymouth, he enlisted as a member of Company D, Forty-eighth Indiana Infantry, for a term of three years. At the end of that term he was discharged at Huntsville, Alabama, on the 1st of January, 1864, with the rank of corporal, and on the same day reenlisted as a veteran for another three years, becoming a member of the same company and regiment. The regiment had been made up at Goshen, Indiana, under Colonel Eddy, and they first proceeded to Paducah, Kentucky, and thence to Pittsburg Landing. The first battle in which the regiment participated was during the siege of Corinth. There had been many skirmishes throughout the state which finally led up to the great battle of Corinth, one of the most destructive of the war, in which the regiment lost a great number of men. Prior to this engagement Mr. Smith was confined to the field hospital with lung fever and was later transferred to the hospital at Evansville, Indiana, where he remained for several months. He was given leave, however, to join his regiment at the time of the battle of Corinth and remained with it until it started on the campaign to Vicksburg. He then returned to the hospital and there remained until the siege of Vicksburg was begun, when he again joined his regiment and was constantly under fire throughout that long engagement. He was then taken to the hospital at Vicksburg on account of illness. where he remained while his regiment was at Memphis, Tennessee. Rejoining it at Corinth, he remained with the regiment throughout the remainder of the war, participating in many important engagements, including the battles at Savannah, Georgia; Missionary Ridge; Raleigh, North Carolina; and many skirmishes. He remained on active duty until the close of hostilities and was honorably discharged at Indianapolis, Indiana, on the 15th of July, 1865. He took part in the grand review at Washington, D. C., the greatest military pageant ever witnessed on this continent, being a member of the Third Division of the Fifteenth

Army Corps, under General J. E. Smith. With his final discharge there closed a military record of which anyone might have been proud, for throughout the entire period of the war his conduct had been characterized by the utmost loyalty to the cause for which he contended and a courage that never faltered in the face of duty.

After his return to the north Mr. Smith took up his abode at El Paso, Illinois, where he remained for a short time, after which he went to Kendall county. There he followed farming for a time and was likewise engaged at various other places throughout the state, being thus identified until March 16, 1880, when he took up his permanent abode in Decatur. After his arrival in this city he entered business circles as a painting contractor and for twelve years carried on a successful enterprise which increased so steadily in volume and importance that in 1902, when compelled to withdraw from active work, he retired with a goodly competency which now supplies him, in the evening of life, with all necessary comforts.

It was in Kendall county, Illinois, on the 6th of June, 1867, that Mr. Smith wedded Miss Emma A. Evans, who was born in that county on the 3d of December, 1846, her birth occurring in the same house in which she was married. Her father, Francis Evans, a farmer by occupation, was of Scotch descent and came to Illinois from the east in pioneer days. He lived to the remarkable old age of ninety-three years, passing away in Grundy county. His wife was seventy-nine years of age at the time of her death, which occurred in Livingston county. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Smith were born two daughters, the eldest, Mary Ellen, having been born in Kendall county on the 8th of June, 1869. She wedded John M. Schultz of Greenup, Illinois, where they now reside, and they have become the parents of three children, Olive Hazel, John Wesley and Burthle Roenetta. The younger daughter, Sarah Annetta, was born in Livingston county, Illinois, August 27, 1871, and is now the wife of John Northland, of Decatur. Their children are Annell and Lucille.

The religious faith of Mr. Smith is indicated by the fact that he holds membership relations with the First Methodist church of Decatur. He is well known in fraternal circles, belonging to the Knights and Ladies of Security; to Sangamon Tribe, 146, Improved Order of Red Men; to the American Star of Equity lodge; and the Mutual Protective League. He also maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades as a member of Dunham Post, 141, G. A. R., at Decatur. In politics Mr. Smith has given his allegiance to the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise, loyally supporting the organization which upheld the Union during the dark days of the Civil war, and while a resident of Kendall county was elected on that ticket to the office of road commissioner. He has ever been deeply interested in the affairs of the nation, advocating measures which have had for their object the general growth and development and has remained as faithful to the interests of his country in the days of peace as when he followed the old flag on southern battlefields. With a liking for all manly outdoor sports, he has ever been particularly fond of hunting and today relates many interesting stories of nights spent in coon hunting in the early days in Indiana. Fortunate in possessing those characteristics which

speak for honorable manhood and desirable citizenship, Mr. Smith has won for himself a place among the most highly respected residents of Decatur, his engaging personality making him the friend of all who know him, and few men more richly deserve the good-will and high esteem of their fellowmen.

P. E. GERBER.

Occupying a prominent and honored position in financial circles in Macon county is P. E. Gerber, who for ten years has been vice president of the Argenta Bank and is classed with the representative and prosperous business men of the town. His birth occurred in Whitmore township, Macon county, July 20, 1863. His father, Samuel Gerber, was a native of Shelby county, Ohio, where he was reared to manhood and pursued his education. There he married Miss Susanna Hilbrant, also a native of Ohio. They began their domestic life upon a farm in Shelby county, Ohio, where they lived for a number of years, and about 1861 removed westward to Illinois, establishing their home in Macon county. The father purchased land in Whitmore township, at first becoming the owner of a forty acre tract of wild prairie. He broke the sod and fenced the fields, built a small house there and with characteristic energy began the cultivation of crops that the place might bring to him a substantial and immediate income. His labors gained him prosperity and he purchased more land from time to time. He also added attractive and substantial farm buildings and altogether developed a place which in its equipment was equal to the best farms of the community. His different investments in property at length aggregated six hundred and forty acres of rich and valuable land in different farms in Macon county, and year by year he carefully tilled the fields and developed his place according to modern methods. At length, however, he put aside the active work of the farm and removed to Argenta, building there a good home.

The Argenta Bank, a private institution, was established and owned by James Brown and Samuel Gerber, Mr. Brown acting as president, Mr. Gerber as vice president and James Hemphill as cashier. After the death of Mr. Brown, Mr. Gerber became president, while P. E. Gerber was elected first vice president and S. O. Hilbrant became cashier. While living in Argenta the father lost his wife, who passed away in June, 1907.

The youthful experiences of P. E. Gerber were such as usually come to the farm boy whose vacation periods are spent at work in the fields. The chores of the farm, the plowing, planting and harvesting, all became familiar to him. At the same time he pursued his education in the common schools and later supplemented it by a course in Lincoln College. Following the father's removal to Argenta the son remained upon the farm and continued its cultivation and the raising and feeding of stock. He and his father were partners in the ownership of the farm and the conduct of the business, and he made a specialty of raising heavy draft horses and of raising, buying and fattening cattle for the market. He was thus actively identified with general agricultural pursuits until 1893, when he removed to Argenta and erected the modern residence that is now his home.

On the 21st of March, 1886, in Shelby county, Ohio, Mr. Gerber was married to Miss Lydia Hilbrant, who was born and reared in the Buckeye state and is a daughter of Irvin Hilbrant, also a native of Ohio, where his youthful days were passed. Mr. and Mrs. Gerber have one daughter, Blanche, now the wife of Charles Bricker, of Spokane, Washington.

Since removing to Argenta Mr. Gerber has divided his attention between his farm and live-stock interests and other business affairs. He is a man of progressive spirit, watchful of opportunities, and his improvement of the advantages which have come to him have made him one of the leading and representative business men of the community. Moreover, he is public-spirited and any project for the good of the community is sure to receive his indorsement. Politically he is a republican and his devotion to the general welfare was demonstrated in his two terms' service as mayor of Argenta. He has also served on the town board, yet has never sought nor desired office, his political preferment coming to him through the vote of his fellow townsmen, who have recognized and appreciated his ability. He and his wife are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church of Argenta, and he belongs to the Masonic lodge of the town. He has also taken the degrees of Decatur Chapter, R. A. M.; Decatur Commandery, K. T.; and the Mystic Shrine of Peoria. In Argenta Lodge, I. O. O. F., he has served through all the chairs, is a past grand and has represented the local lodge in the Grand Lodge of the state. The extent and importance of his business interests have made him widely known in Macon and adjoining counties, and the course which he has ever followed has commended him to the confidence, good-will and regard of his fellowmen, who appreciate his worth and recognize the fact that his success is well merited.

HENRY BARNHART.

The fact that Henry Barnhart was a faithful and loyal soldier of the Civil war would alone entitle him to mention among those citizens whose records are a credit and honor to Decatur. However, as a business man in this city he has made for himself a creditable name, having for a considerable period been numbered among the contractors and builders of Decatur, although at the present time he is living retired.

He was born in Miami county, Ohio, January 2, 1843, and was a son of Samuel Barnhart, a native of Pennsylvania, who died in the Buckeye state at the age of seventy-seven years. The mother passed away in Pennsylvania at the age of eighty-four years. They were the parents of eight children, five of whom are still living in Ohio. The father was a farmer, carpenter and contractor and led a busy and active life so that he left to his family the priceless heritage of an untarnished name.

Henry Barnhart pursued his education in the public schools of Covington, Ohio, and at the age of seventeen began learning the carpenter's trade under the direction of his father. He had previously had some business experience in assistance which he had given his father in the work of the farm in early

life. He had not worked long at the carpenter's trade when the Civil war was inaugurated and he watched with interest the progress of events in the south. He could not content himself to remain at home when the outcome of the war seemed ominous, and in August, 1862, when nineteen years of age, he joined the One Hundred and Tenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which became a part of the Second Brigade of the Third Division of the Sixth Army Corps under Captain J. C. Ulery. He served for the full term of three years and participated in the following battles: Union Mills, Virginia, June 12, 1863; Winchester, Virginia, June 14, 1863; Stephenson Depot, June 15, 1863; Happing Heights, June 29, 1863; Brandy Station, November 8, 1863; Mine Run, Virginia, November 27, 1863; The Wilderness, May 5, 1864; Spottsylvania, May 9-12, 1864; Nye River, Virginia, May 14, 1864; Cold Harbor, Virginia, June 1-12, 1864; Petersburg, Virginia, June 22-23, 1864; Ream Station, June 20, 1864; Monocacy, Maryland, July 9, 1864; Sneekers Gap, August, 1864; Opequan, Maryland, August 9, 1864; Fisher Hill, Maryland, September 22, 1864; Cedar Creek, October 19, 1864; Cedar Springs, November 12, 1864; the two engagements at Petersburg on the 23d of March and the 2d of April, 1865; Jettersville, April 5, 1865; Sailors Creek, April 6, 1865; and Appomattox, April 9, 1865. It will thus be seen that his service was a very arduous one and that he was constantly on active duty. He made a most creditable military record, never faltering in the face of danger, and therefore returned home with the honors of war.

Mr. Barnhart received his discharge at Columbus, Ohio, and at once returned to Covington, that state, where he engaged in farming for a number of years and also followed carpentry. He has been a resident of Macon county since 1887 and here took up carpentering and contracting, with which business he was actively and successfully identified until 1905, when he retired from the trade to look after private business interests. He had made investments in real-estate and is now the owner of considerable valuable city property, including his fine residence. From much of his property he derives a substantial annual income.

Mr. Barnhart was united in marriage to Miss Celentha Battson, who died August 20, 1889, leaving a son, John D. Barnhart, who is at the head of the John D. Barnhart Company that has recently opened a mercantile establishment in the Gebhart block on North Water street. He entered the mercantile field five years ago and in that time has made remarkable progress. Previous to going into business for himself he was traveling salesman for the Morehouse & Wells Company. Later he established a small hardware store and, branching out, he added to his stock, securing additional room and incorporated his company. His hardware store is in the same block with his new enterprise and he will manage both business interests. The new undertaking is a general merchandise enterprise that will meet the demands of trade in that part of the city.

While Henry Barnhart is now living retired from business, he is widely and favorably known in other connections. He has always taken an active and helpful interest in the work of the Grand Army of the Republic and is the present commander of Dunham Post, No. 141, G. A. R., of Decatur, having been elected in 1910. He always attends the annual reunions of the One Hundred and Tenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry and he was a delegate to the state encamp-

ment of the Grand Army at Freeport, Illinois. In all matters of citizenship he is as true and loyal to his country as when he followed the old flag upon southern battlefields and protected the interests of the Union when facing the enemy's bullets.

WAIT BROUGHTON.

Wait Broughton, who has won a gratifying measure of success as a farmer and stock-raiser, is the owner of three hundred and sixty acres of valuable land in Mount Zion township, making his home on section 18. His birth occurred in Rensselaer county, New York, on the 15th of April, 1837, he being the youngest son of Wait and Sallie (Cross) Broughton. The father who was born in August, 1787, participated in the war of 1812 and in 1848 took up his abode in Fairfax county, Virginia, where he followed farming. His demise occurred on the 12th of March, 1863. His wife, who was born in Rensselaer county, New York, on the 25th of October, 1796, passed away on the 21st of December, 1876. She was a daughter of the well known Captain Cross of New York, who was a native of the Green Mountain state.

Wait Broughton, who was a lad of eleven years at the time of his father's removal to Virginia, attended the schools of that state until sixteen years of age and remained on the home farm there until the spring of 1859, when he came to Springfield, Illinois. Subsequently he worked on farms in Sangamon and Macon counties until the outbreak of the Civil war, when he enlisted for service in the One Hundred and Sixth Illinois Infantry, remaining with that command for three years. He participated in the engagements at Vicksburg and Jackson and other noted battles west of the Mississippi river. He was severly wounded at one time but returned to the front as soon as able. He still maintains pleasant relations with old army comrades through his membership in Dunham Post, No. 41, of Decatur—the first post organized after the close of the war. When hostilities had ceased Mr. Broughton engaged in farming and the raising of sheep, but the venture proved disastrous and he not only lost all his capital but found himself in debt as well. Nothing daunted, however, he started out anew with increased zeal and in 1872 purchased eighty acres of land on section 18, Mount Zion township. By dint of untiring industry and good management he prospered as the years passed by and at the present time his property holdings embrace three hundred and sixty acres of valuable and productive land. He paid from twenty-five dollars to as high as two hundred dollars an acre for the property. The place of lacking is none of the improvement and conveniences of a model farm of the twentieth century and its neat and thrifty appearance speaks volumes for the energy and enterprise of the owner. Throughout his business career Mr. Broughton has devoted his attention to the pursuits of farming and stock-raising and his activities in this connection have brought him a gratifying annual income. At the time of his arrival in Springfield in 1859 his worldly possessions consisted of a gold piece of the value of two and a half dollars. Setting resolutely to work, he has since made steady progress toward the goal of success, undeterred by obstacles and difficulties.

On the 2d of June, 1868, Mr. Broughton was united in marriage to Miss Susannah Welsh, of Sangamon county, her parents being Levi and Mary (Reed) Welsh, natives of Franklin county, Pennsylvania. In 1854 they took up their abode in Sangamon county, Illinois, where Mr. Welsh successfully carried on general agricultural pursuits. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Broughton have been born the following children: Albert T., whose natal day was December 1, 1869; Ida M., whose birth occurred June 7, 1871; Edmond W., who was born on the 15th of April, 1873, and passed away on the 27th of April 1874; Henry C., born October 15, 1874; George H., February 20, 1878; Walter F., whose birth occurred September 23, 1879; Samuel L., who was born November 20, 1882, and died June 7, 1883; and Stanley L., who first opened his eyes to the light of day on the 6th of September, 1886. The son Henry C., has two children: Russell Clay, whose birth occurred October 9, 1898; and Goldie Fern, born October 6, 1900; and Frederick W., has three: Marie, born in August, 1900; Bernice, born October 11, 1906; and Irene, born April 22, 1909.

Politically Mr. Broughton is a stalwart advocate of the republican party, believing that its principles are most conducive to good government. He and his family attend the Presbyterian church. The period of his residence in this part of the state covers more than a half century and he has therefore witnessed much of its growth and development. Honorable and upright in all life's relations, the many sterling traits of his character have endeared him to the great majority of those with whom he has come in contact.

ZACHARIAH TAYLOR BLAINE.

Zachariah Taylor Blaine is one of Decatur's oldest settlers and has the respect of all who know him. He is now living a retired life but for a number of years was closely identified with agricultural pursuits in this part of the state. He was born in Perry county, Pennsylvania, December 13, 1845, and is a representative one of the old families of that state. His grandfather was born in Pennsylvania and was a prominent agriculturist of the community in which he lived. His son, William Blaine, the father of Zachariah Taylor Blaine, was born in New Jersey and in early life learned the shoemaker's trade. He went from New Jersey to Pennsylvania and there enlisted for service in the war against the Indians of Florida. He was afterward a soldier of the Mexican war, and again his military spirit was dominant when the country became involved in the Civil war, for he espoused the cause of the Union and marched to the front under the stars and stripes. There are few men who can boast of active service in three wars of the country, but William Blaine was a veteran of three of the different contests in which the country has been engaged. He married Jane Leightner, who was born in Perry county, Pennsylvania, in 1817. Her father was also a native of Pennsylvania and represented a family of German lineage founded in America in early days. He continued a resident of the Keystone state throughout his entire life and passed away at the age of eighty-eight years, after having devoted the greater part of his life to farming. His

daughter, Mrs. William Blaine, was also a lifelong resident of Pennsylvania, her death occurring in Cumberland county in 1901, when she had reached the age of eighty-four years. The death of William Blaine occurred in Indiana. In both the paternal and maternal lines Z. T. Blaine of this review is a representative of families noted for longevity.

His youthful days were spent in Perry county, Pennsylvania, and when he was six years of age he went to live with an uncle in that county, who was a farmer. He remained with him for four years, after which he lived with his grandfather Leightner until sixteen years of age. His public-school education was supplemented by two years' study in the Mount Dempsey Academy at Landisburg, Pennsylvania, and he also spent one term in the Seward Normal School of Pennsylvania. At the age of sixteen years he went to Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, where he was employed at farm labor until after the outbreak of the Civil war.

Responding to the country's call for troops, Mr. Blaine enlisted as a member of Company A, One Hundred and Thirtieth Pennsylvania Infantry, on the 10th of August, 1862. He went to the front under Captain William M. Porter and served for ten months, after which he was mustered out at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Later he returned to the army and was in the quartermaster's department in Washington, D. C., for two years. He had previously participated in the battles of Antietam and Fredericksburg. He was also in the engagement at Chancellorsville and went with Grant through the Wilderness up to Petersburg. Subsequently, he returned home but afterward proceeded to Washington, D. C., and with Sheridan's army marched up the Shenandoah valley, being at Winchester when Sheridan made his famous ride. When the war ended he returned to Perry county, Pennsylvania, and it was subsequent to this time that he spent two years in school. In 1868 he arrived in Decatur, where he has since made his home, covering a period of forty-three years.

About two years after his arrival in this city, Mr. Blaine was married in Decatur on the 6th of December, 1870, to Miss Mary Stare, who was born in York county, Pennsylvania, and came to Illinois in 1868. Her father died in Pennsylvania, where he had followed farming, and the mother came with her daughter to Decatur, where her last days were passed. Mrs. Mary Blaine departed this life in Decatur, December 25, 1905. The only child born of that marriage was a son, Benjamin B. Blaine, who lived for only ten days. On the 9th of December, 1909, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Mr. Blaine was again married, his second union being with Alice J. Linebaugh, who was born in York county, Pennsylvania, March 6, 1873. Her father, William Linebaugh, and her mother, who bore the maiden name of Mary E. Williams, were both natives of the Keystone state, and the latter died in Pennsylvania, where Mrs. Alice Blaine remained up to the time of her marriage.

After coming to Macon county, Mr. Blaine was for many years identified with farming interests, owning and cultivating an excellent tract of twelve acres, from which he derived a substantial annual income. The careful management of his business affairs brought him a measure of success that now enables him to live retired and yet enjoy the comforts and many of the luxuries of life. He has traveled quite extensively, having in 1906 gone to Mexico for the winter,

while at other times he has visited the Pacific coast, remaining in the far west for a year, and on still other occasions he has traveled in Canada and the eastern states. He believes that money is meant for enjoyment and not for hoarding, and in his travels he has had that broadening influence which is obtained in no other way.

Mr. Blaine belongs to Dunham Post, No. 141, G. A. R., of Decatur, and both he and his wife are members of the Church of God. His political allegiance has ever been given to the republican party since its organization and age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He has not sought or desired public office, however, preferring to concentrate his energies upon other interests, especially upon his business affairs, wherein he has gained creditable and gratifying success. He is today one of Decatur's oldest residents and enjoys the unqualified regard and esteem of those who know him. His military record is one which entitles him to the respect and gratitude of his fellowmen. He did much active and important service at the front, and his loyalty was never called into question, for he was equally faithful to the cause he espoused when on the firing line, picket line or engaged in clerical duty in the quartermaster's department. In matters of citizenship the same fidelity has characterized him throughout the days of peace, and Macon county has reason to class him with her representative men.

GEORGE W. DISNEY.

The ranks of the old soldiers of Macon county are rapidly becoming thinner as the years pass and it is with pleasure that we here present a record of Sergeant George W. Disney, who for many years has been an honored citizen of this county and is now living at No. 1525 North Clayton street, Decatur. He was born in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, August 2, 1845, and is a son of Joshua and Elizabeth (Houser) Disney, the former of whom was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in March, 1821, and the latter in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania. The father went to live in the latter state after his marriage and was in charge of a canal-boat, upon which the celebrated novelist, Charles Dickens, rode when he visited this country. Joshua Disney and his wife came to Illinois in 1856 and settled in Macon county. The father died in Decatur in 1889, and the mother was called away in 1864. Twelve children were born to them and the following are now living in Macon county: Snowden H., Caroline, Isabelle, Grant and Lee B. Mary J. Morrison lives at Rockwell City, Iowa, and John A. in Oklahoma, while William, John, David T. and Valley are deceased.

George W. Disney was educated in the common schools of Pennsylvania and Illinois and continued at home until seventeen years of age. In May, 1863, he enlisted at Decatur in Company E, One Hundred and Forty-fifth Illinois Infantry, under Captain Wheat West, serving for six months, when he was mustered out at Camp Butler, Illinois. On February 8, 1865, he again enlisted for a period of one year, becoming a member of Company K, One Hundred and Fifty-second Illinois Infantry. He was mustered in as corporal but became

sergeant and was honorably discharged and mustered out at Memphis, Tennessee, September 11, 1865. He served in southwestern Missouri under command of Colonel Lackey, of Bloomington, and General Rosecranz, and there saw a great deal of service with bushwhackers. He considers himself very fortunate indeed to have escaped with his life.

After laying aside the accoutrements of war, Mr. Disney spent one year in Pennsylvania and then came to Macon county, where he took up his home and became for many years identified with its business interests. He is a single man, having never entered the state of matrimony. In politics he accepts the principles of the democratic party but often votes for the man irrespective of his party affiliation. A stanch believer in the Christian religion, he holds membership in the Church of God and is an earnest worker for the cause. He is also a member of Dunham Post, No. 141, Grand Army of the Republic, and there gathering with his comrades, he revives the memories of many years ago and once more fights the battles which saved the Union and sounded the knell of human slavery throughout the whole world.

WALTER A. CARR.

That Macon county has proved attractive both as a place of residence and because of the good opportunities offered along agricultural lines, is indicated by the fact that many of her native sons have chosen to remain within her borders, finding in the rich and fertile soil of central Illinois an excellent scope for well directed efforts and intelligently applied labor. Among this number is Walter A. Carr who, in the operation of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, is meeting with most creditable success. His birth occurred in this county on the 26th of April, 1878, and he represents a family which has long been connected with agricultural pursuits in Illinois.

His father, Nathan A. Carr, was born in St. Clair county, this state, March 29, 1838, but came to Macon county in 1865, making his home here since that time. For many years he was closely and actively connected with agricultural interests but is now living retired in Decatur, having reached the seventy-second milestone on life's journey. In early life he had married Melissa J. Writtinghouse, who was also born in St. Clair county, Illinois. Her birth occurred in 1840 and she passed from this life in February, 1910, at Decatur, after having reared to maturity a family of ten children.

This number included Walter A. Carr, of this review, who spent the period of his boyhood and youth in his parents' home, acquiring a good education in the public schools of Illinois. He remained at home until twenty years of age when, in 1898, he decided to try his fortunes in the northwest, and, making his way to the Puget Sound country, remained there about eighteen months. He then returned home, but after a short time the call of the west again proved irresistible and for some time he was variously engaged in California and Mexico. After his second return home, in the summer of 1901, he took up his abode permanently in Illinois and has here since continued.

Two years later, on the 5th of February, 1903, Mr. Carr was united in marriage to Miss May Hohn, who was born on the 14th of March, 1880. She was the sixth in the family of seven children born unto William and Martha Hohn, residents of Illinois.

After his marriage Mr. Carr removed to his present home, a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 17, Milam township, Macon county, the tract being the property of his father. Here he carries on general farming and also engages in stock-raising, and the close application and careful management which he gives to his interests are proving strong elements in a most creditable success.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Carr has been blessed by a son, Bernard E., who was born on the 24th of December, 1895. Mr. Carr holds membership in Beacon Lodge, No. 434, K. P., and since age conferred upon him the right of franchise has voted for the men and measures of the democratic party. Although he has ever been deeply interested in the questions and issues of the day, and indorses those measures which have for their object the welfare of the community in which he makes his home, his interest is merely that of the private citizen who does not seek public office as the reward for party fealty. He has preferred rather to concentrate his energies upon his private interests which, wisely managed, are bringing to him prosperity both substantial and gratifying.

DAVID HOFF.

No class of men in America deserve the undying gratitude of lovers of liberty so much as the soldiers who on the field of battle at the risk of their lives successfully defended the Union. These brave men went forth by thousands and tens of thousands and many never returned. Others came home bearing the honorable scars of war, a constant reminder of their fidelity to the flag which they had sworn to uphold. Among the valiant men who suffered in the war is David Hoff, retired, and now living at No. 557 West Macon street, Decatur. He was born in Ashland county, Ohio, January 15, 1842, and is a son of Jacob and Susanna (Spellman) Hoff, both of whom were natives of Boonsboro, Maryland. They were married in their native state and removed to Ashland county, Ohio, coming to De Witt county, Illinois, in 1862. Here the father died and the mother departed this life in Macon county. The grandparents of our subject were natives of Maryland but spent the greater part of their lives in Ohio.

David Hoff was educated in the common schools and just as he was preparing to take up the active duties of life the great Rebellion threw its shadows over the land. He enlisted November 11, 1861, for a term of three years in Company G, Sixty-fifth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, under Captain Arlow Smith, of Ashland. The regiment participated in many of the leading battles of the Army of the West, including the battles of Corinth, Chattanooga, Perryville, Buzzard's Roost, Resaca, Stone River and many skirmishes. At Resaca, Georgia, private Hoff escaped capture or loss of life almost miraculously. He and his comrades suddenly found themselves within twenty feet of an overwhelming body of

Confederates. Our subject dodged through the underbrush in a zigzag course, and although the bullets pattered like hail through the leaves, they all went amiss, and after a few moments, during which time he made the greatest race that he ever knew, he found himself safe and unharmed. The incident made a vivid impression which still arises with great distinctness in his mind and even now causes a feeling of uneasiness. At the battle of Kenesaw Mountain, June 27, 1864, Mr. Hoff received a dangerous wound in the arm. He was sent to the field hospital at Nashville, where after intense suffering the arm was amputated August 27, two months after the injury was inflicted. He was honorably discharged December 11, 1864, at Camp Butler, Illinois, having served three years and one month. Returning to Macon county, where his parents were then living, he has ever since made his residence in this county. For twenty years he was constable and collector at Maroa and for a number of years past he has lived at Decatur, where he has served as bailiff of the court.

On April 27, 1877, Mr. Hoff was united in marriage to Miss Levra O. Bann, and one child, Raymond D., born at Maroa, August 2, 1878, is the result of the union. The son married Cleada Yohe, a native of Christian county, Illinois, and is now identified with the telephone business.

Mr. Hoff from the time of casting his first ballot has been a stanch supporter of the republican party. His religious belief and practice is founded upon the golden rule and he has made many friends by his kindly disposition, who justly honor him not only for his excellent war record but for his services as a man and a citizen. The esteem in which he is held by his old comrades is indicated by the fact that he is at present junior vice commander of the Grand Army Post of Decatur.

EZEKIEL THOMAS WILLOUGHBY.

Ezekiel T. Willoughby, who comes of pioneer ancestry, is the owner of a valuable farm in Macon county and has well earned the comfort and ease in which he is now living in Decatur. He was a true soldier when the republic was in danger and has always been a patriotic and useful citizen. He was born in Collinsville, Madison county, Illinois, August 13, 1840, and is a son of Thomas and Sallie Ann Willoughby. The father came from the state of Delaware, of which he was a native, to Madison county, Illinois, in a wagon in the early part of his manhood. The mother was also a native of Delaware but they were married in Madison county, this state. The wedding trip of the young couple was one of the unique journeys of early days, consisting of a visit to friends in Delaware. This required an entire year. Returning to Illinois, they settled in Madison county, where the father died. There were three children in the family, Hester Ann, Ezekiel T. and John Henry B., all of whom are now living. The mother was again married, her second husband being George Pratt, who departed this life in 1851. She died in 1850, leaving one child, Mary Susan, by her second husband. The daughter is now a resident of Collinsville. Our subject's grandfather, Willoughby, was a native of Delaware and emigrated to Illinois,

where he died in 1856. The grandfather on the mother's side also came from Delaware and located in Madison county.

After the death of his parents Ezekiel T. Willoughby made his home with John Anderson, a farmer of Madison county, for about six years, at the end of which time he took up his residence with an uncle in St. Clair county. On August 13, 1862, being then twenty-two years of age, he volunteered at Lebanon, St. Clair county, in Company C, One Hundred and Seventeenth Illinois Infantry. The regiment participated in the battles of Fort Dernsy, Louisiana, March 14, 1864; Pleasant Hill, April 9, 1864; Tupelo, July 14, 1864; Nashville, December 15-16, 1864; Fort Blakely and Mobile, Alabama, April 7, 1865, and was also in thirty-three skirmishes. During the period of service the regiment marched on foot twenty-one hundred and eighty-seven miles, traveled by train eight hundred and forty miles and by water fifty-eight hundred and thirteen miles. The records also show that the regiment captured two stands of colors, four hundred and forty-two prisoners and eight pieces of artillery. Private Willoughby was one of the men whom the officers could always rely upon and he never shirked any duty during the three years of his service. He was mustered out at Camp Butler, Illinois, August 1, 1865, and paid off at Springfield.

After a short visit to St. Clair county, he came to Macon county in October, 1865, and purchased a farm of eighty acres, on which he lived for thirty-six years. Industrious and enterprising, he prospered through good management and safe investments and became a leading man in his locality, increasing his original farm by the purchase of three hundred and forty-five acres, which he now owns in addition to the home place. Since 1901 he has been living retired in a beautiful residence, of which he is also the owner, at No. 945 West Macon street.

On February 28, 1867, Mr. Willoughby was married in St. Clair county by Rev. Mr. Joy to Miss Mary M. Oglesby, who was born in that county, February 13, 1848. She is a daughter of William B. and Edith (Moore) Oglesby, the former of whom was a Methodist minister and was born February 3, 1815, in St. Clair county. He was a cousin of "Uncle" Dick Oglesby, of this state. Her mother, also a native of St. Clair county, was born July 10, 1815, and was married April 25, 1841. Her grandfather Moore was a native of North Carolina, while her grandfather Oglesby was a native of Pennsylvania and an early settler of St. Clair county. William B. and Edith Oglesby came to Macon county in 1875, the former dying near Macon Station on October 28 of the same year. Mrs. Oglesby departed this life February 13, 1887, leaving two children, Mary M., now Mrs. Willoughby; and Martha V., who married John Walker, of Macon county, February 27, 1868, and was the mother of seven children, two of whom died in infancy; the others being: Edith R. who was born in 1871; Cornelia who was born in 1873 and died in 1882; George W., born in 1875; Carrie, who was born in 1877 and died in 1889; and Mary E., born in 1880. The mother of these children was called away June 6, 1883.

To Ezekiel and Mary M. Willoughby, ten children have been born, three of whom died in infancy. Edwin O., born October 2, 1870, is living on his father's farm in Macon county. On September 14, 1892, he was married to Lenora Johnson, of Ohio, and they have one child, W. Ervil, now living. Wil-

liam A., born September 21, 1872, was married in Shelby county, this state, March 6, 1901, to Luella Hilvety. Sally Ann was born December 16, 1873, and on January 1, 1902, was married at Decatur to Wheeler C. Cullison, of Ohio. Two children have been born to them, Merrill and Mary Olive, and the family are now living on the farm of our subject. Henry W., born December 6, 1875, was married in Macon county, August 12, 1897, to Goldie E. Pennypacker, by whom he had two children, Dewey and Boggs. He was married a second time July 15, 1905, to Laura Belle Logue. Emily Edith, who was born June 28, 1879, and died April 9, 1910, was married January 11, 1899, to Louis Cullison, of Ohio, and was the mother of three children, Raymond E., Ernest E. and Mary Leila, all of whom are living. Ida Olive, born October 2, 1880, is living with her parents. Chester Earl, born October 18, 1884, was married November 20, 1907, to Ada Stein and now lives in Decatur.

Mr. Willoughby is a stanch friend of education and served for many years as a member of the school board. He is a believer in the authority of the Bible and attends the Methodist church. Politically he adheres to the republican party and socially he affiliates with Dunham Post, No. 141, Grand Army of the Republic, of Decatur, where he meets his old comrades and renews recollections of the years when he devoted his life to the service of his country. He is recognized as a man of the strictest honor and all who know him appreciate his sterling qualities.

PETER DORAN.

Decatur gained a valuable citizen when Peter Doran established his home here. He was a life-long resident of Illinois, and for many years was closely and prominently associated not only with the building interests but also with the public life and welfare of the community. He was born in Quincy, Illinois, June 7, 1846, and was a son of John and Margaret (Martin) Doran. The father was a farmer by occupation and a native of County Donegal, Ireland. However, when young he came to the United States and settled at Quincy, Illinois, where he secured employment in a packing factory. Afterward he removed westward to Clyde, Illinois, where he lived for a few years, and subsequently took up his abode in Litchfield, Illinois. He purchased land in that locality and the place became known as the old family homestead.

Peter Doran was educated in the Christian Brothers school, a Catholic institution, but, being the eldest son in the family, he early had to begin work in order to assist in the support of the younger members of the household. His entire life until his later years was one of untiring diligence and unabating effort, and his success was attributable entirely to his own labors and progressive spirit. He early accepted a position in connection with the grain business, and the experience which he gained in that direction led him to continue in the same field of labor when he started out upon an independent business career. Removing to Morrisonville, he there became proprietor of a grain elevator and continued actively in the grain trade for many years, his business creating a market for the farmers of the locality. In all of his dealings he was thoroughly

trustworthy as well as enterprising, and his progressive spirit and the reliability of his methods gained for him a business that in volume and importance was most gratifying, and in time brought to him a substantial return, enabling him in his later years to live retired. He continued actively in business at Morrisonville for a long period, and then put aside business cares, removing to Decatur, where his remaining days were spent in the enjoyment of a well earned rest. He was the owner of two hundred and seventy-five acres of fine farm land in Texas, and this with other property real and personal, enabled him to leave his family in comfortable financial circumstances.

On the 4th of May, 1887, Mr. Doran was married to Miss Mary Walsh, a daughter of Jeremiah and Anna (McCann) Walsh, the former a native of Ireland, whence he sailed for the new world when about fifteen years of age, landing at New York. He had made the voyage in company with his father's family, who continued their journey into the interior of the country, settling at Litchfield, Illinois. Mr. Walsh was largely educated in this country and here learned his trade. For many years he remained an active business man but at length his health failed and for three years he was an invalid. Unto him and his wife were born six children. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Doran also numbered six children: Anna, Margaret and Stella, all of whom have finished school, while Joseph, Harold and Mary are still in school.

Mr. Doran was a prominent and influential resident of Morrisonville, taking an active and helpful part in matters relating to the general good. His fellow townsmen, appreciating his work and ability, elected him to the office of mayor, and his administration was businesslike and progressive, culminating in a number of valuable reforms and improvements in the city government. He believed in a high moral standard in municipal affairs as well as in private life, and he therefore sought the best interests of the community. He and his family all belonged to the St. Morris church while in Morrisonville, and were prominent and active in church work. Mr. Doran was also a member of the Knights of Columbus. His last years were spent in an honorable retirement from labor with leisure to enjoy the fruits of his former toil. He won many friends during his residence in Decatur, enjoying the high regard of all with whom he came in contact. His death occurred August 1, 1910, and at his passing he left behind him many who for years had entertained for him warm regard and cherished him as a friend, neighbor and citizen.

CHARLES A. HALL.

Charles A. Hall, a worthy representative of the agricultural interests of Macon county and the owner of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Niantic township, was born in Fayette county, Kentucky, November 28, 1847, and is the son of James H. and Sarah A. (Pritchett) Hall. The father was a valiant soldier of the Civil war and was a member of the Sixth Kentucky Volunteer Infantry under Major Nelson. He served for more than three years in the Rebellion, being present in many of the greatest battles and participating in a num-

ber of the important campaigns, but during all this time, although frequently exposed to the bullets of the enemy, he received no injury whatever. In 1863, while absent from his regiment on a furlough, he brought his family to this country, locating them upon one hundred and sixty acres of land which he purchased in Niantic township. After his honorable discharge from the service of his country, he joined his family in Macon county and actively engaged in farming. After the death of the mother of our subject, the father was married a second time. By his first marriage there were eight children: Isabella, now deceased, who married H. W. Wells, of Niantic township and became the mother of two children; James P. of Niantic township; Charles A., the subject of this review; Sallie, who married Robert Harp and is now deceased; Lucinda, who married Henning Jacobson and is also deceased; Lydia Agnes, who became the wife of James I. Boone, of this county, and is deceased; Alonzo, now a practicing physician of Niantic; and Walter Nelson, who died at two years of age.

Charles A. Hall was educated in the public schools and as a boy grew up on the home farm, becoming thoroughly familiar with all of its operations. At twenty-one years of age he acquired the interests of the other heirs in his father's farm and made a home there for each of his three sisters until they were married. About 1874 he sold the farm and purchased the land which he has since owned in Niantic township, paying fifty dollars an acre—the highest price that had been paid for land in the neighborhood up to that time. He has since remodeled the residence, introducing a hot-water heating plant and gas and making it thoroughly modern throughout. In 1906 he built a cement barn which is the only structure of the kind in the township, and in many ways he has added to the value and appearance of his farm, making it in all respects a highly desirable property. He is also the owner of one hundred and eighty acres of improved land at Dexter, Stoddard county, Missouri, which he acquired in 1906, at fifty dollars per acre. Mr. Hall is a thorough farmer and has attained a well earned success in his life work.

On January 20, 1874, Mr. Hall was united in marriage at the Christian church in Niantic to Miss Laura Averitt, of Harristown township, a daughter of Nathan and Penelope (Templin) Averitt. On the same occasion and at the same place two other couples were married, Lucinda, the sister of our subject being married to H. Jacobson, and Clara B. Pritchett, a cousin, becoming the wife of J. H. Chamberlin. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hall. Lucie Aliff, a graduate of Hamilton College at Lexington, Kentucky, later taking a course of study at Louisville, is now the wife of Ferdinand F. Culp, who lives near Warrensburg and has one son, Harold. Clara Averitt, a graduate of Hamilton College, is now living at home. Charles Nathan died at the age of four months. Russell Pritchett has been a student for the past two years at Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky.

Mr. Hall was reared as a democrat and voted for Horace Greeley for president, but since 1896 he has been identified with the cause of prohibition. Since 1866 he has been a member of the Christian church at Niantic and has served with great acceptance as deacon, elder and Sunday school superintendent in this church, having also been a charter member of the same. He is a valued member

of the Modern Woodmen of America and has occupied all the chairs in the local lodge. Mr. Hall was fortunate in the selection of a wife and to her prudence and good judgment he owes much of his success. He is justly recognized as one of the substantial and useful men of the community—a man with the highest sense of justice and honor—and one whose life has exemplified in a striking degree the principles that are the basis of all right thought and action.

BENJAMIN F. HILL.

Although many years have passed since Benjamin F. Hill was called from this life, he is still remembered by many who knew him and who found him ever a straightforward, honorable business man and worthy citizen. He devoted his life to farming, making his home in Wheatland township. He was numbered among the native sons of Macon county, his birth having here occurred on the 20th of February, 1836. His parents were Francis and Hannah Hill, in whose home he spent his youthful days and acquired his education in the public schools. During the periods of vacation he worked in the fields, and when school was in session his morning and evening hours were largely occupied with the chores and other light work on the farm. After he had attained his majority he determined to make the occupation to which he had been reared his life work and accordingly rented land, which he carefully and systematically cultivated until from his earnings he had saved enough to enable him to purchase a farm of his own.

On the 1st of October, 1857, Mr. Hill was united in marriage to Miss Adaline M. Ridgway, a daughter of John and Sarah (Bridges) Ridgway. Her father, a native of Kentucky, came northward to Illinois and was a landowner of Sangamon county. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hill were born the following children: Sarah A., living at home with her mother; John Francis, who married Jennie Mount and has eleven children, Harry, Edith, Ray C., Ethel L., Benjamin F., Ruby M., Elmer, Guy, Harold and Caroline; Lillie, who is the wife of Ira Warnick and has one child, Bernard; Hattie, the wife of Clarence Montgomery and the mother of three children, Cecil, Benjamin and Lela; Clarence, who married a Miss Taylor and died leaving a widow and five children, Bonnie, Hattie, Edna, Freda and Clarence; Cyrus, Caroline, Benjamin F. and Benjamin O., all now deceased.

In support of his family, Mr. Hill followed the occupation of farming and as previously stated invested in land, becoming owner of two hundred and four acres in Wheatland township, which he transformed into a valuable and productive farm, making this one of the excellent properties of the county. He added to it many substantial improvements and placed his fields under a high state of cultivation so that generous harvests were annually gathered. He became recognized as one of the representative farmers of the community and continued to devote his energies to agricultural pursuits until the 20th of March, 1874, when his life's labors were ended in death. The community thereby lost a worthy citizen, his neighbors a faithful friend and his family a devoted hus-

band and father. In business circles he was always thoroughly reliable and he stood for what is best in the life of the individual and of the community.

Since her husband's death Mrs. Hill has removed from the farm to the city and now resides at No. 1253 West Wood street. She is a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church and has many friends in Decatur and other parts of the county.

JOSEPH R. STOCKS.

In a history of those who have contributed to the agricultural development of central Illinois mention should be made of Joseph R. Stocks, who, though his earthly pilgrimage is over, was for many years a representative farmer and worthy citizen of this portion of the state. He was the owner of a farm of three hundred and thirty acres of land in Moultrie county, one of the fine farm properties of the district. His birth occurred near Chillicothe, Ohio, on the 26th of November, 1853, his parents being George and Myra (Epworth) Stocks. The father was a farmer by occupaton and on leaving Ohio brought his family to Illinois. The district in which he settled was still largely wild and unimproved. He took up land in Moultrie county, developed a farm there and reared his family thereon, continuing to make the place his home until he was called to his final rest.

Joseph R. Stocks was a youth of about fifteen years when he came with his parents to Illinois. He had begun his education in the public schools of Ohio and finished his course in Moultrie county. He worked on the farm at home during all of his school period when his time was not occupied with his textbooks and early became familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. At the age of twenty-one years, however, he started out in life on his own account and then rented land, which he cultivated for about five years. During that period he saved from his earnings an amount sufficient to enable him to buy a tract of land. To this he added from time to time as his financial resources increased until he became the owner of a valuable property of three hundred and thirty acres lying altogether in Moultrie county. His well directed labor wrought a marked transformation in the appearance of the place. He added to his farm all modern equipments and accessories and as the years passed on became numbered among the representative agriculturists of central Illinois.

Joseph R. Stocks was married on the 22d of October, 1874, to Miss Minnie E. Foulk, a daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Munich) Foulk. The father was a native of Perry county, Pennsylvania, and on coming to Illinois at an early day settled in Macon county, where he won recognition as a prominent and influential citizen. He was both a farmer and carpenter and was the owner of about two hundred acres of rich and valuable land in this locality. He is now living in the state of Missouri but his wife has passed away.

Mrs. Stocks was the third in order of birth in a family of eleven children and by her marriage has become the mother of the following children: Archie,

who wedded Miss Angie Fletcher, by whom he has six children—Lloyd, Ada, Lester, Beulah, Beatrice and Irene; William, who resides on the home farm; George Elmer, deceased, who married Miss Stella Craven, by whom he had four children—Diamond, Pearl, Kenneth and Errol; Walter, who has passed away; Estella Mae, who is the wife of Wilbur Hill and has three children, Ambrose, Laura Ellen and Ernest; Samuel Ernest, who married Miss Clio Crowder and has one child, Lois Marie; Clarence E., who lives on the home farm; Bertha, living at home in Decatur, Illinois; Goldie E., who is still under the parental roof; Joseph H., who is attending school; and Gladys, at home, who is a high school student.

The family belong to the United Brethren church and take an active and helpful interest in its work and the extension of its influence. As the years passed, notwithstanding the demands made upon him by a large family, Mr. Stocks prospered in his undertakings and was able to leave his wife and children in comfortable financial circumstances. He was alert, determined and enterprising and his success was attributable to no outside aid or influence but was the direct result of his earnest labor and diligence. For three years prior to his death he lived retired in Decatur. He died March 6, 1908, and left to his family the priceless heritage of an untarnished name as well as a good property.

GEORGE LOUIS HEINLE.

A representative of the Heinle family needs no introduction to the readers of this volume, for the name has long been closely, actively and honorably associated with the farming interests of Macon county. George Louis Heinle is now farming on section 2, Friends Creek township, and his neighbors and friends know him as a man of determined purpose who in the development and cultivation of his place carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes. He both tills the fields and raises stock, his farm comprising two hundred acres of rich and productive land. He also owns another tract of one hundred and sixty acres within two miles of the home farm and personally gives his attention to the cultivation of both places.

He was born on the old Heinle homestead, March 10, 1874, and is a son of George L. Heinle and a brother of Samuel Heinle, in connection with whose sketch on another page of this work mention is made of his parents. He worked in the fields in his youthful days and his training was practical. His educational privileges were those afforded by the common schools and he remained with his father until the latter's death. He has ever been content to follow the occupation to which he was reared and which George Washington characterized as "The most useful as well as the most honorable occupation of man."

On the 1st of January, 1900, George L. Heinle was married to Miss Lula Mary Myers, who was born and reared in Macon county and is a daughter of Wash Myers, one of the prominent and well known farmers of this region, now residing in Argenta. Mr. Heinle took his bride to his farm, a tract of ninety-

four acres, which he further improved, adding all the accessories and equipment of a model farm of the twentieth century. His other investments in land have made him the owner of three hundred and sixty acres, comprised within two well improved and valuable farm properties, and he likewise owns real-estate in Argenta. In addition to raising the grain best adapted to soil and climatic conditions, he also raises and feeds stock, largely making a specialty of heavy draft horses. This branch of his business is a substantial source of income and he is regarded in the community as one of the leading stock-raisers.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Heinle has been blessed with one child, a daughter, Grace Gertrude. The parents belong to the United Brethren church and its teachings find exemplification in their well spent lives. Mr. Heinle belongs to Argenta Lodge, A. F. & A. M., in which he has attained the Master Mason degree, and he also holds membership with Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Argenta. He is a stalwart advocate of the democracy and was elected and served for six consecutive years as highway commissioner. For five years he was a member of the board of education and is now township school trustee and district clerk. He has ever been most loyal to the public trusts reposed in him and that he seeks the welfare of the community is shown by his genuine and hearty cooperation in matters relative to the public good.

JOB W. STOCKS.

Job W. Stocks, a retired farmer residing at No. 1048 West Decatur street in the city of Decatur, is numbered among the native sons of Ohio, his birth having occurred in Ross county, that state, on the 28th of March, 1860. He is a son of George and Miriam (Epworth) Stocks and is of English descent. His father was born in Berry Brow, England, and was a son of Benjamin and Mary Stocks. Benjamin Stocks was a mechanic and worked in the factories of England, never leaving his native land. He and his wife were buried at the old home there.

George Stocks was educated in the schools of England and as a young man came to the new world, thinking to have better opportunities and find better privileges on this side the Atlantic. While making the voyage to the new world he met the lady whom he afterward married, the wedding ceremony being performed a short time after their arrival in the United States. Both the Stocks and Epworth families went to Ohio, where they made their first settlement in the southern part of the state, probably in Vinton county near the Ross county line. George Stocks worked at odd jobs for a time and later became connected with railway interests, becoming a practical civil engineer. In England he was associated with old Jimmy Griffiths, prominent in English history, Mr. Stocks acting as one of his assistants. For some time he worked as a civil engineer in railroad construction here but afterward purchased a farm in Vinton county, Ohio, clearing the land and preparing it for the plow. He remained upon that place for about nine years and then sold the property, after which he came to Illinois. In this state he first rented a farm of Robert Patterson, about six

miles south of Decatur and near the village of Elwin. He was there for six years, after which he purchased a farm in Moultrie county and about a year later took up his abode upon that place. This has since been known as the old Stocks homestead and the father resided thereon until his death. His remains were interred in the New Hope cemetery near Dalton City and in his passing the community mourned a representative and esteemed resident of the county.

Job W. Stocks was the fifth in order of birth in a family of seven children and was but a baby at the time of his parents' removal to Illinois. He is indebted to the public school system of Macon county for the educational privileges which he enjoyed and later he worked upon the farm with his parents. At the age of twenty-one he began farming on his own account, securing eighty acres of land, which he brought into cultivable condition and from his fields eventually gathered rich and abundant harvests. He had a team when he went upon the farm but little else, and it was his close application and untiring energy that made him one of the successful agriculturists of the community. At length he sold that property but purchased other land and is now the owner of one hundred and twenty acres in his present farm, which he now rents. His place is located in Lovington township, Moultrie county, and he became well known as one of the enterprising agriculturists of that community. At length, however, he determined to put aside active business cares and retire to private life. He therefore leased his land and took up his abode in Decatur, now making his home at No. 1048 West Decatur street.

On the 15th of February, 1883, Mr. Stocks was married to Miss Cora A. Thomas, a daughter of Milo and Sarah Thomas. They have four children: Arthur E., who married Cecil B. Wilt and resides upon the home farm; Dot E., who was educated in the Lovington high school and is now at home; Olive and Clarence Otis, who are also under the parental roof.

The family attend the Christian church and are interested in its work and growth. Mr. Stocks belongs to the Woodmen lodge and for a number of years he served as school director, the cause of public education finding in him a stalwart champion. He is deeply interested in all matters of progressive citizenship and on all affairs of vital importance to the community he stands loyally for what he believes to be right.

WARNER PROCTOR.

Warner Proctor, deceased, made farming his life occupation and met with most excellent success in business affairs. A native of Kentucky, he was born in Fleming county, on the 17th of June, 1828, and continued a resident of that county throughout life. His father, William Proctor, was also a native of Kentucky, and had the following children: William, John, Lafayette, Washington, Eldrich, Lucinda, Amanda, and Nollica, who were lifelong residents of the Blue Grass state.

Warner Proctor was reared and educated in much the usual manner of boys of his time and on reaching manhood was married January 12, 1854, in Scott

county, Kentucky, to Miss Sarah E. Miller. She was born December 15, 1838, and was the daughter of John and Jane (Leresque) Miller, who were also natives of Kentucky. Her father was a farmer by occupation, and was one of the prominent men of his community. For ten years Mr. and Mrs. Proctor led a happy married life, but on the 5th of May, 1864, he passed away, leaving a widow and six children. John W., the eldest, is married and has six daughters and two sons. Martha Jane and Mary Elizabeth, twins, were born in 1856. The former married J. R. McLean and resides with her mother at No. 303 West Main street, Decatur. Mary Elizabeth married C. M. Chasteen, and is also a resident of Decatur. Sarah Margaret, the next of the family, was married in Kentucky to Frank Perry and now makes her home in Decatur. Robert C., born in Kentucky, November 27, 1861, is married and lives in Reedville, Massachusetts. Warner Lee, born September 28, 1864, is deceased, and was laid to rest beside his father in the family burying ground in Kentucky.

After the death of her husband, Mrs. Proctor continued a resident of the Blue Grass state for some time, but in 1882 came to Illinois, arriving in Decatur on the 8th of January, and here she has since made her home, her residence at the present time being at No. 303 West Main street. Like her husband, she is a consistent and earnest member of the Christian church, having in early life united with the Bethlehem congregation in Bourbon county, Kentucky. She is a woman of many estimable qualities, and during her residence in Decatur has made many warm friends who esteem her highly.

FRANCIS M. ROGERS.

It is universally conceded that Illinois, with its rich and fertile soil, contains some of the finest farm land to be found in the entire Union, and among those who are successfully carrying on agricultural pursuits in this state is numbered Francis M. Rogers. More than a half century has passed since he first opened his eyes to the light of day, his birth occurring in Mason county, Illinois, on the 24th of December, 1858, his parents being Frank and Helen (Pettijohn) Rogers, The father was a native of Kentucky and came to Illinois in early boyhood, settling first in Mason county. Later he took up his abode in Macon county and here remained until his death, which occurred in March, 1872, after many years devoted to general farming. He was fifty-two years of age at the time of his demise. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Helen Pettijohn, was also a Kentuckian by birth but at an early day came to Illinois with her parents, the family home being established in Macoupin county. There she gave her hand in marriage to Frank Rogers, and she yet survives her husband, making her home with her son Francis, who is the fifth in order of birth in a family of ten children, of whom all are living but three. Of those surviving, with the exception of two, all are married and have families of their own.

At an early day Francis M. Rogers was brought by his parents to Macon county, and here he acquired a good education in the common schools. He also received thorough practical training in agricultural lines, for early in life he

became familiar with the tasks that fall to the lot of the farm lad and as his years and strength increased he aided more and more largely in the cultivation of the fields, continuing to assist his father until the latter's death. He then took charge of the old homestead and has continued its operation to the present day. He practices rotation of crops, raises the cereals best adapted to soil and climate, and his well tilled fields yield abundantly at harvest time. He also raises and fattens stock for the market and both branches of his business are proving profitable.

In February, 1902, Mr. Rogers was united in marriage to Miss Bertie Coffman, who was born in 1873 and was the eldest in a family of eight children born unto Jacob and Catherine (Woolumer) Coffman. They were both natives of Ohio and came to Illinois in 1875, locating in Sangamon county. By her marriage Mrs. Rogers became the mother of two children, of whom the eldest, Lloyd, died at the age of three years and six months. The surviving son, Floyd, was born on the 10th of October, 1909.

Mr. and Mrs. Rogers are both identified with the church interests of the community, the former holding membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and the latter in the Christian church. In politics he gives his support to the republican party, and twice he has been elected by his fellow citizens to the office of assessor. He is not, however, a politician in the sense of office-seeking and aside from that office his political activities have been those of a private citizen, his business interests demanding his time and attention. The long years of his residence in Macon county have brought to him a wide acquaintance, and the high place which he occupies in the regard of all with whom he has come in contact is an indication of his upright character and sterling worth.

JOHN P. GARDNER, JR.

Throughout his entire life John P. Gardner, Jr., followed the occupation of farming and by reason of his well directed thrift and industry was enabled at his death to leave his family in comfortable financial circumstances. He was born July 5, 1839, in what is now Gardner township, Sangamon county. His father, John P. Gardner, Sr., was born in Kentucky in 1805 and came to Illinois in 1833, remaining a resident of this state until his death, his remains being interred in the family burying ground at Farmdale, Illinois. At his demise he left a widow and six children, Hiram, James, William, John, Sarah and Lucy. They also lost one child, Mary, in infancy.

John P. Gardner, Jr., was reared to the occupation of farming and made it his life work. For many years he carried on general agricultural pursuits in Curran township, Sangamon county, and was diligent and determined in the prosecution of his work, thus converting his land into richly cultivated fields. His methods were practical and progressive and as the years passed the good crops which he raised brought him a substantial annual income and gained him a place among the men of affluence in the community. For fifteen years prior to his death he lived upon one farm and was numbered among the prosperous

and enterprising agriculturists of the community. He there owned three hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land.

On the 3d of December, 1884, at Springfield, Illinois, Mr. Gardner was united in marriage to Miss Emma F. Pollard, of Sangamon county, who was born near Island Grove, February 20, 1852. Following their marriage they took up their abode about five miles west of Springfield, establishing their home upon a farm which they occupied for about fifteen years. The death of Mr. Gardner occurred January 1, 1898, and his remains were interred in Oak Ridge cemetery of Springfield. His life of diligence and determination enabled him to leave his family in comfortable financial circumstances, and the honorable methods which he displayed in the conduct of his business affairs gained for him an untarnished name. He was not a member of any secret societies. His political allegiance was given to the democratic party, yet he took little active part in political affairs. His religious faith was that of the Christian church, his membership being with one of the congregations of that denomination in Springfield.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Gardner there were born six children: James E., a farmer, who is married and resides at the town of Gardner in Sangamon county; Charles P., who makes his home in Springfield; Harvey P., of St. Louis, Missouri, who is connected with the ticket office department of the Wabash Railroad in that city; Florence E., who resides at home with her mother in Decatur; Kendall B., who is also at home; and Leonard W., who completes the family.

Following her husband's death, Mrs. Gardner removed to Macon county, taking up her abode in Decatur, where she has since lived. The family residence is at No. 445 West Prairie avenue, and in addition to this property Mrs. Gardner also owns a farm of three hundred and sixty acres in Sangamon county, which returns to her a very gratifying income. Mr. Gardner was almost sixty years of age at the time of his death. His had been an active and useful life, devoted to the welfare of his family, and wherever he was known he was held in highest regard.

JOSEPH A. W. HOSTETLER, M. D.

In the days when Macon county was largely an undeveloped region, when its native forest trees were uncut and its prairies uncultivated, Joseph A. W. Hostetler was born in one of the pioneer homes of this region, his birth occurring in the little village of Decatur, on the 7th of February, 1835. His father, Joseph Hostetler, had removed from Indiana to Illinois in 1832, but in 1838 returned to the former state, settling at Bedford, Lawrence county. Subsequently he removed to Wisconsin and in 1855 again went to Indiana, remaining in that state until 1861, when he removed to Illinois, here residing until his death in 1870, his remains being interred in the cemetery at Lovington. In early life he devoted his time and energies to farming but several years prior to his death was graduated in medicine.

Joseph A. W. Hostetler remained with his father in the various localities in which the family home was established until about twenty years of age. He studied medicine under his father's direction for a time and later under the supervision of his brother, Dr. D. J. Hostetler, while subsequently he was graduated from a medical college at Cincinnati, Ohio. He began practice in 1856, following his profession until 1862, when he could no longer content himself to remain at home while the stability of the Union was threatened and entered the army as assistant surgeon of the One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Regiment, with which he served for three years. At the close of the war he returned home and resumed the practice of his profession, in which he made for himself a creditable name and place.

Dr. Hostetler was married on the 5th of August, 1856, at Bedford, Indiana, to Miss Carrie Newland, of that place, the wedding ceremony being performed by the Rev. James M. Matthis, pastor of the Christian church. Mrs. Hostetler is a daughter of the Rev. William Newland, who was a minister of the Christian church, filling the pulpit at Bedford. He also organized and built the oldest Christian church in that locality, about four miles north of Bedford, and acted as its pastor for thirty-five years. He gave his time and talent freely to the work of the ministry and never would accept any compensation for his services.

Unto Dr. and Mrs. Hostetler were born the following children: Virgil N., a coal dealer, living at Cedar Falls, Iowa; William J., who is married and has two children, and who is engaged in the printing business in Decatur; and Gertrude and Lucy, who are attending school in Decatur.

Fraternally Dr. Hostetler was connected with the Odd Fellows and his life was in harmony with the beneficent teaching of the order. His political allegiance was ever given to the democracy. He held membership in the Christian church, as do all of his family, and his life was actuated by high and honorable principles and characterized by many good deeds. He was acquainted with pioneer life in its various phases and lived to witness the remarkable development and growth of this section of the country. His death occurred in 1904 and was the occasion of deep and widespread regret not only to his family but to many friends who had learned to admire and esteem him for his many substantial and commendable traits of character. Mrs. Hostetler still survives her husband and resides at No. 241 West William street. Like him, she is held in high regard by all who know her and has an extensive circle of warm friends in this locality.

COLONEL NATHAN W. TUPPER.

The period of Colonel Nathan W. Tupper's residence in Decatur covered about nine years, during which time he firmly established himself in public regard as a man, as a citizen and as a lawyer. In the practice of his profession he gained a large clientage of an important character and his name is inseparably interwoven with the early judicial history of this district. Moreover as a veteran of the Civil war he gave his life in defense of his country.

A native of New York, Colonel Tupper was born in St. Lawrence county, July 8, 1830, his parents being Harvey and Joanna (Willis) Tupper, who were likewise born in New York, where they resided until 1833. That year witnessed their removal westward to Akron, Ohio, and subsequently they became residents of Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, where the death of Mr. Tupper occurred. Subsequently his widow became a resident of Missouri and there resided until called to her final home.

Colonel Tupper spent his youthful days under the parental roof, being taken to Ohio when about three years of age, and afterward accompanying his parents to Wisconsin. His father secured for him a farm in the latter state but agricultural pursuits had little attraction for him as he desired to enter upon a professional career. Accordingly he went to the east in order that he might supplement his earlier educational advantages by study in preparation for the practice of law. Making his way to Pottsdam, New York, he there boarded with an aunt while attending St. Lawrence Academy. Later he began teaching school in Pottsdam and afterward became principal of the schools at that place, but all the time he never forgot his determination to become a lawyer and his acts and studies were all directed toward that end. When his time was not occupied with the duties of the schoolroom he continued his reading in preparation for the bar, using every available hour in this way. In 1852 he returned to Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, and there successfully passed the required examination that secured his admission to the bar. For a year thereafter he continued in practice at that place but early in 1854 removed to West Bend, Washington county, Wisconsin, and in 1855 became a resident of Decatur, Illinois, then a small but growing town. However, it bore little resemblance to the city of the present day. All around was a vast region of wild prairie land and weeds grew in the district that now constitutes the public square of the city. There were only a few hundred inhabitants but Colonel Tupper believed that opportunity was to be had here and opened a law office, forming a partnership with Mr. Thorpe, with whom he was associated for a number of years. He afterward became a partner of Judge William E. Nelson, and, opening an office in the Powers building, they practiced there for several years and were accorded an extensive clientage. Colonel Tupper ever prepared his cases with great thoroughness and care, and his presentation was forceful, his deduction logical and his arguments convincing.

At the time of the Civil war Colonel Tupper put aside all business and personal considerations to aid the country in the preservation of the Union and was chosen colonel of the One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Regiment, with which he marched to the front, participating in many important battles. In 1862 he became ill and never recovered his health throughout the remainder of his term of service. On the 7th of January, 1864, he reached Decatur and on the 10th of March following he passed away. His life was given in defense of his country as truly as that of those who fell upon the field of battle.

Colonel Tupper was married in 1853 in St. Lawrence county, New York, to Miss Lamira M. Peck, a native of Malone, New York, born February 11, 1829, and a daughter of Samuel and Myra (Hickok) Peck, who were natives of Vermont. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Peck became residents of Malone,

New York, where the former owned and conducted a tannery and also engaged in the manufacture of ice to the time of his death. His wife long survived him and passed away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Tupper, in Decatur, when ninety-two years of age. Unto Colonel and Mrs. Tupper there were born three children but the eldest, Herbert Eugene, died at the age of six months. Sheridan is a prominent representative of the theatrical profession, having been connected with Roland Reed, William H. Crane and other prominent actors in appearances in the leading cities of the country. He married Miss Ada Shattuck, an actress, and they make their home in New York city, although Mr. Tupper owns property in Decatur near his mother's residence and they frequently spend the summer months in this city with his mother. Emorett, the youngest of the family, died when about ten months old. Mrs. Tupper has an attractive home at No. 247 West Eldorado street, having resided in the same house for fifty-five years. She holds membership in the Presbyterian church and has an extensive circle of warm friends in Decatur.

Colonel Tupper gave his political allegiance to the democratic party in early life but afterward joined the ranks of the republican party, which he stanchly advocated until his death. A contemporary biographer said of him: "He was a man of marked personality and strong individuality and the salient features of his career were such as won for him the unqualified confidence and respect of his fellowmen. He was ever fearless in defense of his honest conviction and no trust reposed in him was ever betrayed. He gained distinction at the bar and upon the field of battle and as long as memory remains to the American people he will be honored as one whose life was given as a noble sacrifice to his country." Colonel Tupper was a man of fine personal appearance. His eyes were large, his gaze penetrating and his broad forehead indicated his strong intellect. There was also in his nature a keen sympathy that reached out to all mankind and a sense of justice that prompted his earnest support of whatever he believed to be right.

ALBERT E. SANNER.

Albert E. Sanner, a successful and enterprising agriculturist of Milam township, is the owner of four hundred and five acres of valuable and productive land on section 4. His birth occurred in Shelby county, Illinois, on the 18th of November, 1869, his parents being Edward B. and Naomi (Pierson) Sanner. The father was born in Madison County, Illinois, on the 29th of April, 1839, while the mother's birth occurred at Augusta, Illinois, in the year 1840. Their marriage was celebrated at Augusta on the 18th of November, 1865. Edward B. Sanner yet makes his home in Shelby county. He and his wife have eight children, as follows: W. P., who wedded Miss Anna Otta, by whom he has seven children; Albert E., of this review; Hattie, the wife of I. J. Carr, of Macon county, who is mentioned on another page of this work; Clifford D., who is a lumber dealer and makes his home in Moweaqua, Illinois; Ruth, who gave her hand in marriage to Henry Elmer, of Penn township, Shelby county,

and is now the mother of two daughters; Samuel, who wedded Miss Luta Ekiss, by whom he has two children; Truman Quintus, who married Miss Bernice Jones and lives with his parents in Shelby county; and Naomi, who is the wife of C. E. Coultas, resides in Shelby county and has one son.

Albert E. Sanner attended the public schools in the acquirement of an education and after putting aside his text-books remained on the home farm with his father until March, 1898. At that time he took up his abode on the farm where he now resides and where he has carried on his agricultural interests continuously since. The property now comprises four hundred and five acres on section 4, Milam township, which he has accumulated since attaining his majority, having invested in land from time to time as his financial resources have permitted. In 1906 he erected a handsome modern residence, complete in every detail. He devotes his attention exclusively to the raising of grain and annually gathers rich crops which find a ready sale on the market.

In politics Mr. Sanner is a republican, while his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Methodist Epscopal church of Penn township, Shelby county. Fraternally he is identified with Dalton City Lodge, No. 114, I. O. O. F. His entire life has been spent in this part of the state and he is widely and favorably known here, enjoying the regard and friendship of all with whom he has come in contact.

D. L. BUNN.

Few deaths that have occurred in Decatur in recent years have caused such widespread and profound sorrow and regret as did that of D. L. Bunn. He was characterized as Decatur's best singer, and his musical talent was freely given for the benefit of entertainment or solace to his fellowmen. No other individual has done as much to promote and cultivate musical taste in Decatur, and the Handel Society of the city was a living monument to his interest in and appreciation for the art. He came to Decatur in 1855, being at that time a young man of about eighteen years.

His birth occurred on Kickapoo creek in the vicinity of Bloomington in McLean county, Illinois, September 27, 1837, his parents being the Rev. and Mrs. D. P. Bunn, whose family numbered five children, D. L. Bunn being the fourth in order of birth. He was but a young lad when the family removed to Macon county, taking up their abode in Friends Creek township, four miles from Argenta and just across the creek from the residence of the late Joseph D. Long. A few years were devoted to agricultural pursuits and the family then removed to Mount Pulaski. At that time Mr. Bunn's father had entered the ministry and became pastor of the Universalist church at Mount Pulaski, where he lived and labored until 1847, when he went with his family to Iowa City, which was then the capital of the state of Iowa, that had been admitted to the Union only two years before. The journey westward was made in wagons but after a year's residence in Iowa City the family returned to Mount Pulaski, again traveling by ox team, for there were no railroads in Illinois or Iowa at that

time. Again the Rev. Mr. Bunn became pastor of the Universalist church, his circuit, however, embracing Decatur, Springfield, Clinton, Waynesville and Rochester, and in preaching the gospel he traveled from place to place on horseback or in a buggy.

In 1852, on the establishment of the Illinois Liberal Institute, a Universalist college, at Galesburg, Illinois, now known as Lombard University, D. L. Bunn became one of its first pupils and remained a student there for three years. Following the commencement exercises of 1855, at which time he was graduated, D. L. Bunn came to Decatur to join his parents who but a short time before had removed from Mount Pulaski to this city. Here he entered the postoffice as deputy postmaster under Colonel John P. Post, and with the opening of the public schools in the fall of 1856 he became first assistant principal of the Church Street school under Professor J. H. Remsburg. The Church Street school had just been completed and was considered a fine building. Mr. Bunn there remained until another school was opened in the second story of a building, at which time Mr. Bunn was made principal of that school and remained in charge for three years.

Thinking, however, to enter other professional fields, he took up the study of law in the office and under the direction of Captain Post and in the fall of 1862 he received from Governor Richard Yates appointment to the position of states attorney of this judicial district, then including Macon, Piatt and Moultrie counties, while Fayette, Shelby, Champaign and Ford counties were soon afterward added. The appointment was made to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Colonel J. P. Boyd and Mr. Bunn filled out the term, covering about two years, after which he received the republican nomination for the office and was elected and served the full term, so that his incumbency in the position of states attorney covered six years. On his retirement from the office he entered upon the private practice of law, which he followed alone for several years and then joined his uncle, Brower Bunn, in a partnership that was maintained for some time. In the spring of 1876 he became a partner of Edwin Park, and the law firm of Bunn & Park remained for many years as one of the strong combinations, representing the legal interests of Decatur. For twenty-six years he occupied one office and in 1889 removed to an office over the National Bank of Decatur, there remaining until he discontinued the practice of law and thus closed his earthly labors. He was accorded a large and distinctively representative clientage that connected him with much of the important litigation tried in the courts of this district. He was an able and conscientious lawyer, whose devotion to his clients' interests was proverbial and yet he never forgot that he owned a higher allegiance to the majesty of the law. He endeavored to aid the court in administering justice and never enshrouded his cause in a sentimental garb or illusion, but studied facts, evidence, precedent and law principle clearly and forcibly. He enjoyed in full measure the confidence and honor of his professional colleagues and associates.

On the 21st of July, 1864, in Decatur, Mr. Bunn was married to Miss Amanda M. Suits, and they became the parents of three children. Hattie, born in 1865, died at the age of seven years. Frank E. is now the tenor soloist in the choir of St. Thomas Episcopal church of New York city and spent the

summer of 1910 amid the White Mountains in New Hampshire. Edna M. is very prominent in local musical circles, being an accomplished pipe organist and pianist of Decatur.

Mr. Bunn was ever deeply interested in questions and projects relating to the welfare, progress and upbuilding of the city in which he so long made his home. A prohibitionist from principle, he voted with the party during the last fifteen or twenty years of his life and was again and again made its candidate for office, showing the regard in which he was held by those who worked with him in the interests of temperance and morality. Mr. Bunn was perhaps most widely known, aside from his profession, because of his superior musical talent. His wife, too, is a singer of rare power and sweetness, having an excellent contralto voice. She was the leading contralto in the Universalist church from the fall of 1860 for a number of years and also officiated as organist. Their children have inherited their taste for and love of music and both have attained distinction. Mr. Bunn came to Decatur in 1855 and soon afterward was asked to sing at a funeral. The beauty and power of his fine tenor voice were at once recognized and no one in this part of the state has sung at more funerals than did Mr. Bunn. The readiness with which he would respond to a request of this character and the spirit which animated his music won him thousands of warm friends in Decatur. His labors, too, in cultivating musical taste and talent in Decatur cannot be overestimated. In the early days he was instrumental in organizing the Decatur Choral Society composed of twenty of the best singers of the city. Later he was active in organizing the Decatur Musical Union, which gave many fine concerts, including the rendition of oratorios. When the First Methodist church of Decatur dedicated its pipe organ under the auspices of the Musical Union, Marie Litta was secured to sing and on that occasion rendered a duet with Mr. Bunn. He many years afterward said of her: "My recollection of Litta is that she had no equal. I have always esteemed her as the finest singer of the country. I have heard all of the later day singers of note and none have impressed me as did the voice of Marie Litta." In later days Mr. Bunn became one of the organizers of the Handel Society, which was composed of over one hundred of the best singers of the city, Mr. Bunn acting as president from its organization until his death. He was for many years a member and leader of the Universalist choir and following the discontinuance of the Universalist church he became a director and tenor of the choir of the First Presbyterian church.

One of the local papers said of him while he was still living: "There is perhaps no one in Decatur who has been connected with the musical life of the city so long and so prominently as D. L. Bunn. He has a fine tenor voice and has without doubt sung at more funerals than any other person in this part of the state if not in the whole state. If he could sing any better when a young man than he does now he was a wonder indeed. His voice is remarkably rich, full and clear. He loves to sing. No one needs to be told that he is in the congregation or choir. His voice is easily distinguished in a multitude of singers by the peculiarly sweet quality of its tone. For one of his years his voice is most remarkable for its fullness and clear sweet tones."

So closely was Mr. Bunn's life interwoven with the history of Decatur that no record of the city would be complete without mention of him. He was a man of fine personal appearance, his broad forehead indicating strong intellectuality, while kindliness and congeniality beamed from his eye. He passed away in 1907, after a residence of about a half century in Decatur. He was everywhere respected and esteemed and by those who came within the closer circle of his friendship he was loved. The depth of his nature often found expression in song that moved his hearers with wonderful power. He was generous with time and talent for the benefit of others and the memory of his sweet tones and his life of uprightness remains as a blessed benediction to those who knew him.

OSCAR L. BROMLEY.

Agricultural pursuits have characterized the life record of Oscar L. Bromley throughout the period of his connection with business interests of Macon county, where his birth occurred on the 21st of December, 1872. He is a son of James P. Bromley, who was born in Ohio in 1843 and in his boyhood came to Illinois, locating first in Morgan county. Later he came to Macon county and here passed away in 1905. His wife, who in her maidenhood was Nancy I. Clifton, was a native of Indiana and came to Illinois with her parents at an early day. She gave her hand in marriage to Mr. Bromley in 1868, and unto this union were born seven children, Oscar L., of this review, being the second in order of birth. The mother still survives and makes her home in Decatur at the age of fifty-seven years.

The common schools of Illinois afforded Oscar L. Bromley his educational privileges, and after laying aside his text-books he devoted his entire time and attention to agricultural pursuits, having mastered, during the periods of vacation, the tasks that usually fall to the lot of the farm lad. Under his father's direction he received thorough and comprehensive training in connection with the best methods of plowing, planting and harvesting, and he remained upon the old homestead until 1895. In that year he was united in marriage to Miss Minnie M. Barber, who was born in 1875 and was the youngest of seven children whose parents were Charles and Hannah Barber, residents of Illinois.

After his marriage Mr. Bromley took up farming independently and in 1900 purchased a tract of eighty acres in Milam township, Macon county, which he operated for about four years. Upon his father's death he inherited fifty-seven acres, which formed the nucleus of his present farm, and later traded his tract of eighty acres for the remainder of the farm, being now the owner of one hundred and sixty acres on section 5, Milam township. Illinois soil is proverbially rich and productive, and under the careful direction of Mr. Bromley his fields have been brought to a high state of cultivation, yielding annually abundant and excellent harvests. In connection with tilling the soil he engages in stock-raising, and his close application to business and his aptitude for wise management have made his enterprises fruitful and prosperous.

In the family of Mr. and Mrs. Bromley are three children, as follows: Jessie I., born March 2, 1899; Gladys, August 14, 1903; and Eunice, January 3, 1907. The parents belong to the Methodist Episcopal church, holding membership in Sanner Chapel, of Milam township. Mr. Bromley is also a member of Beacon Lodge, No. 434, K. P., and his political views harmonize with the principles of the democratic party. On that ticket he was elected to the office of supervisor, which position he now occupies, and for a number of years he has acted as school director, the cause of education finding in him a stanch champion. Indeed, all matters pertaining to the material, political, intellectual and moral welfare of the community receive his hearty indorsement, and he is numbered among the county's public-spirited and loyal citizens. Attractive personal qualities also make him popular with a large circle of acquaintances, and the fact that many of his best friends are those who have known him from boyhood is an indication that in private life as well as in public relations his life has ever been governed by honorable principles.

COLONEL JAMES P. BOYD.

Colonel James P. Boyd is numbered among Decatur's citizens who virtually gave their lives in defense of the country during the dark days of the Civil war, for while he survived the actual hostilities at the front, his death was the direct result of his military experiences. More than four decades have come and gone since he has passed away, but he is remembered by many of the older settlers.

He was born near Bloomfield, Pennsylvania, November 17, 1820, and when a young man went to Ohio with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Boyd, both of whom were natives of the Keystone state. James P. Boyd began his education in Pennsylvania and afterward continued his studies in Ohio. He then took up the occupation of farming and became the owner of two hundred acres of good land in the vicinity of Cambridge, Ohio. Later his father died and the Colonel removed to his father's place in order to cultivate that farm. Thinking, however, to find other pursuits more congenial he took up the study of law and was graduated from a law college of Cincinnati, Ohio, after which he began practice in that city.

In the year 1854 he removed westward to Decatur and was admitted to practice in the courts of this state. He at once opened a law office and had become well established when the progress of the Civil war aroused his patriotic nature and he offered his services to the government, enlisting in the One Hundred and Sixteenth Regiment of Illinois Volunteers, of which he became lieutenant colonel. The first engagement in which he participated was at Arkansas Post. Later he participated in the siege of Vicksburg, where he was wounded in June. It was not until October that he was able to return to the field. After the war he located at New Orleans, Louisiana, where he remained for three years and then returned to Decatur in ill health, passing away in October, 1869, his remains being interred in Greenwood cemetery of this city.

Colonel Boyd had been married on the 20th of September, 1855, to Miss Susan S. Packard. Unto them were born five children who are yet living. Frank S., the eldest, is married and resides at Spokane, Washington. James P. is also married and makes his home in the city of Spokane. Iola is the wife of John Baker, a resident of Indiana, and Mrs. Ada McCollenburg and Elizabeth are also living in Indiana.

Colonel Boyd was a believer in the teachings of the Methodist church and conformed his life to its principles. His political allegiance was given to the republican party from its organization. He was always a stanch advocate of what he believed to be right in matters of citizenship as well as in private life and his many sterling traits of character gained for him confidence and warm regard. Mrs. Boyd still makes her home in Decatur and owns a valuable residence at 506 West William street, where she has lived for a number of years. She has long enjoyed the kindly esteem of those who know her and is indeed one of the best known women of Decatur, having for many years made her home here.

PETER FRANK LEHMAN.

When the early history of Macon county was in the making Peter Fr. Lehman came to this part of the state. It was in the year 1836 and the Black Hawk war had occurred only a short time before. Central Illinois was largely unimproved and undeveloped, the native forests were uncut and the pr[illegible] were covered with the wild grasses and millions of wild flowers that marked the course of summer. Although Mr. Lehman did not remain in the county at that time he afterward returned and became closely associated with the agricultural interests of this part of the state.

He was born in Pennsylvania on the 19th of August, 1826, and his life record covered the intervening period to the 19th of April, 1883, when he passed away at the age of fifty-six years and eight months. He was only two years of age when his parents removed with their family to Ohio, settling near Springfield, in which locality his boyhood and youth were passed. He was a lad of only ten years when in 1836 he first came to Macon county with his elder brother Henry. Soon, however, he returned to his old home in Ohio, and in the year in which he attained his majority—1847—he was united in marriage to Miss Mary J. Albin. They began their domestic life in Ohio, where they resided until 1865, when they removed westward to Macon county, settling in Hickory Point township. There Mr. Lehman secured a tract of land and began farming, transforming the place into richly cultivated fields, wherein he produced large crops of grain. The products of his fields found ready sale on the market and as the years passed he prospered in his undertaking, becoming in time the owner of valuable city as well as farm property. He continued a resident of Hickory Point township until 1880, when with his family he took up his abode in Decatur. He was a man of enduring strength and industry and his ener[illegible] is arise termination enabled him to overcome all the difficulties and obstacle[illegible]

Gradually therefore he worked his way upward and in addition to his farm of about four hundred acres near Bearsdale he was a stockholder in the Macon County Cooperative Association and the owner of valuable city realty.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Lehman were born eight children: William, John H., Frank P., Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Miller, Mrs. Ida Good, Mrs. Emma Coussins, Katie and Minnie. All were living at the time of the father's death but since his demise two of the number have passed away. Mrs. Miller died in Macon county in January, 1887, leaving a husband and five children to mourn her loss. Her remains were interred in Greenwood cemetery of Decatur. A son, Frank Pierce, died April 9, 1906, and he, too, was laid to rest in Greenwood cemetery. In business he had prospered as the years passed by and at his death was the owner of considerable valuable land in Iowa, Louisiana and Texas, being considered a very wealthy man. His success was attributable entirely to his own labors, judicious management and wise investments.

Peter F. Lehman was a believer in the doctrines and teachings of the Methodist church and his political allegiance was given to the democratic party. In his active life he took a great interest in politics and public affairs and was several times called to office, serving as supervisor and overseer of the Macon county poor farm, as school director and in various other local positions, the duties of which he discharged with promptness and fidelity. He was one of the best known citizens of Decatur, a man of stainless character, honored and esteemed by all who knew him. Although twenty-eight years have passed away since he was called to his final rest he is yet remembered by those who were his associates when he was an active factor in the world's work. He left the impress of his individuality for good upon the community and his life record proved also that success and an honorable name may be won simultaneously.

EDWARD EKISS.

Edward Ekiss, an enterprising agriculturist of Milam township, is busily engaged in the operation of a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 15. His birth occurred in Coles county, Illinois, on the 1st of September, 1873, his parents being Michael and Susan (Holsinger) Ekiss, who are natives of Virginia and Tennessee respectively. Their marriage was celebrated in the latter state. On coming to Illinois they took up their abode in Coles county, whence they removed to Macon county in 1878. Here they have made their home continuously to the present time, being widely recognized as worthy and respected residents of the community.

Edward Ekiss, the youngest of six children, attended the public schools in pursuit of an education that would equip him for the practical and responsible duties of life. After putting aside his text-books he assisted his father in the operation of the farm, being thus busily engaged until he had attained his majority. At that time he started out as an agriculturist on his own account, taking up his abode on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 15, Milam township, where he has since remained, the further cultivation and improvement of which he has devoted his

attention continuously since. The property belongs to his father. It is neat and thrifty in appearance and the well tilled fields annually yield golden harvests as a reward for the care and labor which are bestowed upon them.

In May, 1905, Mr. Ekiss was united in marriage to Miss Bessye Michael, who was born in the year 1883, she being the second in order of birth in a family of six children born unto James and Elizabeth Michael, of Illinois. Miss Bessye was one of Macon county's most successful school teachers, having taught in this county for several years.

Since age conferred upon his the right of franchise Mr. Ekiss has supported the men and measures of the republican party, believing that its principles are most conducive to good government. He served as collector for one term, ably discharging his duties in that connection. Mr. and Mrs. Ekiss have a host of friends that is constantly increasing as the circle of their acquaintance broadens and all who know them speak of them in terms of warm regard.

J. C. SUDY.

J. C. Sudy, retired, who resides in a beautiful home in Blue Mound township, is a native of Germany, born December 17, 1830. His parents, J. Conrad and Mary (Becker) Sudy, lived and died in Germany, the former departing this life in 1859 at the age of seventy years, and the latter in 1886 at the advanced age of eighty-six years. There were four children in the family, the subject of this review being the only one now living.

J. C. Sudy was educated in the public schools of his native land and there continued until he was thirty-eight years of age. Believing that more favorable conditions existed in the American republic than under the settled conditions of the old countries of Europe, he crossed the ocean in 1868 and came west to Boody, Illinois. Here he began working by the month but in 1870 was married to Mrs. Lena Sutman, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1828.

After his marriage Mr. Sudy settled on a farm of eighty acres in Blue Mound township. He erected the handsome residence in which he now lives in 1883 and has made many improvements which have greatly enhanced the value of the place. On September 3, 1888, Mr. Sudy was called upon to mourn the loss of his faithful wife, who by her first husband was the mother of five children: Julia, the wife of Henry Jostus, of Macon; Matilda, the wife of Jacob Schneider, of Whiteside county, Illinois; Rose the wife of Peter Moss, of Macon county; William L., of Decatur; and Henry Franklin.

Henry Franklin Sutman, with whom the subject of this review is making his home, was born in Blue Mound township, December 29, 1863. He was educated in the common schools and grew up upon the farm, inheriting eighty acres of land when he arrived at manhood. In 1888 he was united in marriage to Miss Anna Siedler who was born in St. Clair county, Illinois, February 11, 1867, and is a daughter of Joseph and Margaret (Bechel) Siedler, the former of whom was born in Switzerland in 1830 and the latter in Germany in 1840. The father departed this life in 1884. Mr. Sutman is an adherent of the republican party

and although he has never been a seeker for political honors he is at present a member of the school board. Fraternally he is identified with the Masonic order, the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America, and both he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist church, of which he is one of the stewards. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Sutman: Clarence, who was born December 28, 1890, and died at the age of six weeks; Roy, born August 28, 1892; Leona, born 3, 1895; and one born July 3, 1907, who died in infancy.

J. C. Sudy has for many years been a stanch supporter of the republican party. He is a member of the German Methodist church, his wife having been connected with the English Methodist church. Although he has reached the eightieth milestone on life's journey, he has fairly good health and retains clearly in his memory many interesting incidents and observations of the early days. For more than forty years he has made his home in Macon county and here he acquired a reputation as a sincere and upright citizen who has ably assisted in the development of agricultural interests. No man is more highly respected by the people of Blue Mound township, as they recognize that by his thrift and good management he has fairly earned the comforts which he now enjoys.

EDWIN S. KOLP.

Edwin S. Kolp, a general building contractor and real-estate dealer of Decatur whose success has come as the logical and legitimate result of earnest labor and close application, was born near the town of Elwin in Macon county, September 19, 1869. His parents, William and Nancy J. (Law) Kolp, were early settlers of this county and were natives of Pennsylvania and Illinois respectively. The father, who was born in 1838, died in 1906. The mother was born in 1843 and was a daughter of James P. Law, a native of Ohio, who became one of the well known and prominent pioneer settlers of Macon county, Illinois. William Kolp was a blacksmith by trade but followed farming after coming to Macon county in 1848. He also graded the roadbed of the Illinois Central Railroad from Elwin to Illinois Central Junction in 1857. His patriotic spirit was aroused by the outbreak of the Civil war and he enlisted as a member of the One Hundred and Fifteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for three years as chief musician. He afterward became a valued member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Elwin S. Kolp attended the public schools at Shady Grove and Elwin until twenty years age, when he put aside his text-books and began learning the carriage maker's trade, which he followed for five years. He afterward learned the carpenter's trade and in 1904 established himself in business as a general building contractor. In this field he has since labored and many important contracts have been awarded him, his labors contributing to the substantial and attractive appearance of Decatur. He also deals in real estate and both branches of his business have proved successful from the start. In addition to the building of residences he does all kinds of contracting. He has recently erected a

new, strictly modern home for himself and family at No. 1136 West Macon street, supplied with all the conveniences and accessories which add so much to the comfort of life.

On the 24th of November, 1893, Mr. Kolp was married to Miss Nettie Berry, of Champaign county, Illinois, a daughter of Charles and Elizabeth (Foot) Berry, who are also natives of this state and are well-to-do farming people. They are now living retired, their home being in Sadorus.

Mr. Kolp is a member of the Knights of Maccabees lodge and also belongs to the Methodist church. In politics he is independent, supporting men and measures rather than party. His life has been well spent and his energy and enterprise have carried him into important business relations, making him one of the leading and successful contractors of the city. As opportunity has offered he has negotiated real-estate transfers and this has constituted a profitable branch of his business.

PETER R. GROUND.

Peter R. Ground was a self-made man who started out in business life practically penniless and worked his way upward until he became recognized as one of the leading and prominent farmers and stock-raisers of Macon county. His life history, a record of persistent effort, may well serve as a source of inspiration and as an example for those who would attain honorable success. He was born in North Carolina on the 1st of October, 1828, and his life record covered the intervening years until the 8th of October, 1906, when he was called to his final rest. His parent were Henry and Mary (Ishenheimer) Ground, both of whom were natives of North Carolina, where they continued their residence to the year 1840, when they sought a home in the middle west, removing to Spencer county, Indiana, where they resided upon a farm until called from this life. They were the parents of twelve children.

Peter R. Ground spent the first twelve years of his life in the place of his nativity and then accompanied his parents to Indiana, where he continued his education as a public school student. Through the period of his boyhood and youth he worked with his father upon the home farm and on attaining his majority started out in life on his own account. On leaving Indiana he went to Greene county, Illinois where he remained for six months, and then removed to Cass county, Illinois, where he resided for four years. In 1861 he came to Macon county, where he purchased about two hundred and fifty acres of land that was capable of high cultivation. He bent his energies to the development and improvement of the place which is still owned by his widow. The evidences of his labor were soon seen in highly cultivated fields and large crops. He raised the cereals best adapted to soil and climate and followed progresive methods in the development of his place, practicing crop rotation and introducing other scientific methods of farming. When he left home he had but about eight dollars. It was therefore necessary that he work for others for some time or until he could save from his earnings a sum sufficient to enable him to purchase land.

MR. AND MRS. PETER R. GROUND

He worked diligently and persistently and his careful expenditure at length permitted him to invest in property. He then became one of the leading farmers, his practical and progressive methods producing large crops, while he also made stock-raising an important branch of his business. He handled high grades of stock and, therefore, found no difficulty in making a sale when he placed his stock upon the market.

In the year 1855 Mr. Ground was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Frasill and they became the parents of two children of whom one is living, Lurenna, the wife of L. Baker, of Arkansas and the mother of two children, Lena and Grace. Mrs. Ground departed this life in February, 1859, and in 1860 Mr. Ground was again married, his second union being with Miss Angeline Jones. Four children were born unto them; Minnie, who is the wife of George McCool and has three children, Lester, Ethel and Bert; Harry, who married Grace Scott and has three children, Challace, Paul and Katherine; Robert, who wedded Martha Bradley and resides upon the old home farm with his wife and four children—Asa, Ralph, Beulah and Juanita; and Ella, deceased. The mother of these children passed away on the 5th of December, 1874, and it was in January, 1882, that Mr. Ground married Mrs. Mira Bradley, who was a widow. She has three children living by her former marriage: Quincy, a resident of Peoria; Martha, living at Dalton City, Illinois; and Maggie, of Decatur. Mr. and Mrs. Ground became the parents of three children: Anna, the eldest, who was born on the farm twenty-seven years ago and first became the wife of Dr. Leroy George and had one child Leroy. After losing her first husband Mrs. George married George L. Williams, an optician of Decatur, and he has one child, Arthur. Dr. Williams is a Mason and is well known as a business man and citizen of Macon county. Kamp, the second child, wedded May Bland and has a daughter, Blanda. Homer is connected with the National Biscuit Company.

Throughout his entire life Mr. Ground followed the ocupation of farming and his history is an excellent illustration of what can be accomplished by determined purpose and honorable effort. He had no assistance either at the outset of his career or later in life, but depended entirely upon his own resources and his success came as the merited and legitimate reward of honorable effort. Mrs. Ground now makes her home in Decatur and is a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

GEORGE F. COTTLE.

Among the respected citizens of Macon county now living retired may be named George F. Cottle, who comes of stanch English ancestry and was born in Somersetshire, England, November 11, 1834, a son of Charles and Martha (Weeks) Cottle. The parents were both natives of England and came to America about 1848, locating in New York, where they continued during the remainder of their lives. There were six children in the family, four of whom are now living: William, of New York; George F., J. W., of Nebraska; and Stephen, of New York. James W., a brother of our subject, was a stalwart defender of the stars and stripes at the time of the Civil war, serving in a New York regiment

George F. Cottle arrived in this country when he was fourteen years of age and was educated in the public schools of Macon county. He grew up upon the farm and after his marriage settled in Blue Mound township, one and one-half miles west of where he now lives. In this township he continued for more than forty years, becoming one of the most successful farmers. In 1905 he decided to retire from active work and located in Decatur, but he soon found that city life was not according to his liking, as he had for so many years been accustomed to the pure air and beautiful surroundings of the country. Therefore, he returned to rural scenes and accordingly purchased the elegant residence on section 5, Blue Mound township, in which his son-in-law, W. D. Moffett, had been living, including five acres of land. Here he expects to pass his declining years in comfort and ease. He is the owner of three hundred and forty acres in Blue Mound township, a handsome residence in the village of Blue Mound, and other valuable property, so that he is financially independent and is now free from business cares.

On the 22d day of December, 1864, Mr. Cottle was united in marriage to Miss Susan E. Browning, who was born in Clark county, Kentucky, April 10, 1845. She is a daughter of William M. and Frances (Johnson) Browning, both of whom were natives of Clark county, the former having been born April 12, 1807, and the latter February 8, 1812. The family located in Champaign county, Illinois, about 1854 and later came to Macon county, where the parents continued to reside until they passed away. Eight children blessed their union, three of whom are living: Frances M., of Wheatland township, Macon county; Susan E., now Mrs. Cottle; and Henry C., of Indiana. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Cottle. James E., born August 25, 1866, married Miss Anna Hill. They are now living on a farm in Blue Mound township and are the parents of one child, Guy Hill. Anna M., born October 15, 1868, is a graduate of Oxford College, Ohio, and is the wife of W. D. Moffett, of Blue Mound township. They have four children, Wilma, George F., Susan Elizabeth and Helen Lucretia. Susie Frances, born April 25, 1876, is the wife of James T. Cannon. They live in Boody and are the parents of two children, James Ebert and Gertrude. Raymond A., born May 18, 1880, attended the Decatur high school for two years and later became a student in a business college of Decatur and at Valparaiso University, of Indiana. He married Miss Nellie Blair and now lives in Blue Mound. They have one child, Joyce. William J., who was born June 24, 1883, was educated at Valparaiso University and is now engaged as a farmer in Blue Mound township. He married Miss Naomi Gouge and is the father of three children, Ruth D., William and Jessie Naomi.

Mr. Cottle is an adherent of the republican party and, being a warm friend of education, has served with general acceptance as a member of the school board. He has never aspired to political honors, as his attention has been chiefly devoted to his business interests. He and his wife are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, in which he served as deacon for thirty years and also as elder. Mr. and Mrs. Cottle practiced a great deal of self-denial in the early part of their career and are now enjoying the results of their industry. They have traveled extensively in the United States and their home is the center of

generous hospitality which attracts many of the best people of Macon county. Loved by their friends and honored by the entire community, they may truly be designated among the especially fortunate ones whose names are recorded in this work.

THOMAS JEFFERSON AUSTIN.

Among the prosperous farmers of Macon county is Thomas Jefferson Austin, who occupies a highly improved farm on section 4, Blue Mound township, where he and his excellent wife dispense a generous hospitality. He is a native son of Illinois and his eyes first opened to the light of day in Macon county, November 5, 1853. His parents were William A. and Eleanor (Warnick) Austin. The family was originally quite prominent in Virginia, where William Austin, the grandfather of our subject, was born. The father was also born in Virginia, April 28, 1806. He went to Tennessee at the age of fourteen and in 1828 came to Macon county, where he continued until his death, which occurred in March, 1893. He was one of the early settlers of the county and he and his brother Benjamin assisted in the survey of Decatur. He was a Jacksonian democrat and a stanch advocate of the principles of his party, serving for forty-two years as justice of the peace in Blue Mound township. This is a record which probably has never been equaled in Illinois. Abraham Lincoln was a friend of Squire Austin and frequently came to his office to consult books in his library. One of the favorite volumes which Mr. Lincoln often held in his hands was a history of Napoleon Bonaparte, a book that appeared to have a special fascination for the future president. This is now one of the prized possessions of our subject. William A. Austin was a member of the Methodist church and a firm believer in the Bible. He departed this life in March, 1893, and was laid to rest in Brown cemetery. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Austin: Joseph, a resident of Blue Mound; Henrietta, who became the wife of Thomas Ogden and died in Missouri in 1892; Benjamin F., of Christian county, this state; George W., who died in boyhood; William C., who died in March, 1908, and was buried in Salem cemetery; John, who died in 1883, and was buried in Brown cemetery; Nancy J., who became the wife of Abraham C. Miller and died in 1901; Lewis, of Missouri; and Thomas Jefferson, our subject. Mrs. Eleanor Austin departed this life in 1853, ten days after the birth of her son, Thomas J., and the father was again married, selecting as his wife Miss Sarah Ealy. Five children were born of this union: Kate, the wife of T. J. Stevens, a resident of Idaho; Samuel, of Chicago; Wallace, of Seattle; Mary E., now Mrs. Ferris Rosencrantz, of Kansas; and James, also of Kansas. The second wife of Mr. Austin departed this life two years after her husband and was buried at his side in Brown cemetery.

Thomas J. Austin was educated in the common schools of Macon county and in the Decatur high school and became a teacher, continuing for five years in the schools of the county. However, he decided that the farm possessed attractions superior to those of the schoolroom and he engaged in agricultural pursuits and stock-raising for two years in Christian county and then for thirteen years

on a farm near Oreana, after which he conducted operations for six years in the neighborhood of Harristown, and in 1904 located on a place of one hundred and forty-five acres on section 4, Blue Mound township, which belongs to his father-in-law. He is a general farmer and stock-raiser and has made good progress in a business which calls for the best abilities of a well trained mind.

On February 28, 1879, Mr. Austin was united in marriage to Miss Belle Mathews, who was born in Macon county, August 3, 1860, a daughter of John and Agnes (Johnson) Mathews, the former of whom was born in Indiana in April, 1840, and is now living in Decatur. Her mother was born in Ohio, June 2, 1841, and died in November, 1908. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Mathews: Belle, herein mentioned; Nannie, now Mrs. C. R. Scroggin, living on a farm in Macon county where Abraham Lincoln passed part of his boyhood; George, deceased at twenty years of age; William, who died at thirty years of age; Elizabeth, the wife of R. A. Thornell, of Boody, Illinois; Della, the wife of L. E. F. Lawley, of Decatur; and Sammy, who died in infancy. Three children came to brighten the household of Mr. and Mrs. Austin, of whom George is the eldest. He was born February 5, 1880, and married Mattie Fombell. They are living near Maroa, Illinois, and have one child, Verna. Dwight, born August 8, 1882, died at the age of eleven years. Floyd Rolland, born April 6, 1897, is living at home. Stephen Johnson, an uncle of Mrs. Austin and a citizen of this state, served in an Illinois regiment in the Civil war and he acquitted himself as becomes a valiant soldier.

Mr. Austin since starting out in life for himself has largely depended upon his own exertions and has thus developed many sterling qualities of mind and heart that under ordinary circumstances might have lain dormant. He has been a highly useful member of the community and has found in his wife a most worthy companion whose unselfish life has endeared her not only to her family but to the entire neighborhood where she has for a number of years been well known.

EDWIN J. ROBERTS.

Edwin J. Roberts is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of fine farm land about two miles west of Warrensburg. The place is a well cultivated tract, improved with modern equipment and all of the accessories that go to make up a model farm of the twentieth century. Its present owner, a practical, progressive agriculturist, was born July 5, 1842, in Barnstead, Belknap county, New Hampshire, a son of George S. and Eliza A. (Bunker) Roberts, who were also natives of the Old Granite state. The father was a representative of a very prominent Welsh family and the mother was of English lineage. Throughout his entire life George S. Roberts followed the occupation of farming and in the year 1865 he left New England for Illinois, making his way to Woodford county, where he resided for about two years. Subsequently he purchased the farm upon which his son Edwin now resides, paying thirty-five dollars for one hundred and twenty acres and sixteen and two-thirds dollars for forty. Through-

out the intervening years until his death, which occurred in 1897, he resided upon that farm, and his labors transformed it into a valuable property, worth many times what he paid for it originally. For about twelve years he had survived his wife, who passed away in 1885. Their children were: Sarah E., now deceased; and three sons, Edwin J., Dr. George F., of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Everett L., of Lexington, Nebraska.

Edwin J. Roberts was educated in the public schools of New Hampshire and after finishing his own education he taught for about three years in the east and later for three years in Illinois. In the meantime he had been employed to some extent in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and after coming to the middle west he worked upon a farm. He was about twenty-three years of age when he began farming on his own account, first renting land in Woodford county. He purchased his first land from his father, becoming owner of forty acres. He has always been interested in the farm upon which he now resides but in late years has sold half of his land to his son Harry E. He has been an active, energetic agriculturist, quickly adopting any method which tends to improve his place and add to its value and attractive appearance. He has brought the fields under a high state of cultivation and annually large crops are produced. He follows the most modern and scientific methods of farming, rotating his crops, using fertilizers and doing everything in his power to keep his land in good condition and the soil most productive. Moreover, he has been interested in the Illini Insurance Company for twenty years and served as secretary of the State Association of Mutual Insurance Companies for five years. He has also been connected with education interests throughout his entire life and the public-school system has no more stalwart champion than Edwin J. Roberts.

On the 29th of March, 1864, Mr. Roberts was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie S. Daniels, a daughter of Nathaniel and Mary Ann Daniels and a representative of a prominent New Hampshire family. Her parents always remained residents of that portion of the country. Mr. and Mrs. Roberts had two children but Ernest E. is now deceased. Harry E., who resides near the old homestead and operates most of his father's land, married Abbie M. Eaton and they have one child, Laurence B. Mr. and Mrs. Roberts also reared Maggie May Cheeseman, who remained a member of the household up to the time she became the wife of Berry E. Turner, in August, 1906.

Mr. Roberts belongs to the Woodmen camp of Warrensburg, of which he is a charter member and of which he has served as counsel. Throughout the period of his residence here he has been regarded as a public-spirited citizen and was one of those who aided in building the railroad through this section. His political support is given to the democratic party and for ten years he has filled the office of supervisor of his township, his reelection being proof of his ability and fidelity in that connection. He was a delegate to the free silver convention at Springfield and he has ever stood fearlessly in defense of his honest convictions. He was made chairman of the building committee which had charge of the construction of the courthouse and served as chairman of board of supervisors for two years. In every connection his service has been of an important character. He is now president of the local option club and also of the Men's Christian Association. He is a deacon in the Congregational church and his

salient principles are those which measure up to a high standard of manhood and Christian fellowship. His life has indeed been well spent and his many sterling characteristics have gained for him the high regard of the citizens among whom he has lived for more than four decades.

JAMES S. CARTER

James S. Carter is now living retired in Decatur and is respected and honored because of his active record in business and because of the faithful service which he gave to his country during the Civil war. He is today one of the oldest residents of Macon county, having resided within its borders for seventy-two years. His birth occurred at what is now the northwest corner of North Main and North street in Decatur, June 13, 1839. His grandfather, Jesse Carter, was born in Guilford county, North Carolina, in 1764 and in 1811 removed to Crab Orchard, Kentucky. He first wedded Mary Haines, who died leaving two children, and following their mother's death they were sent back to North Carolina. In 1812 he married Sarah Dyhouse and they became the parents of ten children. The mother died in 1831 and in 1832 Jesse Carter wedded Mary Sword, who lived but a year after their marriage. In 1835 he married Ann Starns and they became the parents of three children. Jesse Carter, the grandfather of our subject, died in Crab Orchard, Kentucky, April 24, 1852.

A son of Jesse Carter's second marriage was Elisha D. Carter, the father of our subject. By his different marriages Jesse Carter had a large family. His son, James D. Carter, born January 25, 1817, died July 25, 1887. His children were Sarah J., John, Eliza A., James, Minerva, Della M. and Maurice A. Vincent P. was born in 1819 and died in childhood. Zachariah, born in 1821, also died young. William C., born July 15, 1823, died August 30, 1872. His children were Eliza S., William S., George N. and Wilson C. Elijah Carter, the next member of the family of Jesse Carter, was born October 26, 1824, and died February 27, 1899. His children were James V., Amanda, Sarah E. and Mary A. The seventh child of Jesse Carter's second marriage was Mary A. Carter, who was born in 1826 and by her marriage had one son, John Peter. Mathew, the eighth member of the family, was born in 1829 and his children were Zach, Andrew, Clara, Mathew, J. Vincent and Alice. Jane Ann, born January 1, 1831, died February 11, 1899. She was married and her children were Albert, Henry, Sarah, Ella, Mary, John R. and Zalpha. The third wife of Jesse Carter, as previously stated, lived for but a year. His fourth wife was Ann Starns and they had three children: John B., born in 1838; Jesse A., born in 1841; and F. Marion, born in 1847. The last named married and had two children, J. D. and D. M .Carter.

Elisha D. Carter, the father of James S. Carter, was born at Crab Orchard, Kentucky, February 2, 1814, and was a cabinet maker by trade. He married Christina Schmick, who was born in Lincoln county, Kentucky, July 18, 1812. They left the Blue Grass state in 1836 and settled first in Shelbyville, Illinois, but after a short time removed to Springfield, Illinois, where they

resided for two years. On the expiration of that period they came to Decatur, where the father followed his trade until 1854 and then turned his attention to the grocery business, in which he was engaged until 1858. He then sold out and retired from active business the following year, enjoying well earned rest from that date until his death, which occurred July 16, 1881. The Carter and Schmick families both came from Kentucky to Sangamon county, Illinois, and it was there that the parents of our subject were married on the 18th of July, 1837, the wedding ceremony being performed in Springfield by the Rev. Hooper Cruse. The death of Mrs. Carter occurred in Decatur, February 15, 1882, having survived her husband for less than a year.

James S. Carter spent his youthful days in his father's home and completed his education by attending the high school of Decatur. He then entered his father's store, acting as clerk there, and in 1860 he became a clerk in a dry goods store, where he was employed until 1861. On the 7th of August, 1862, he responded to the country's call for aid, enlisting in Company F, One Hundred and Fifteenth Illinois Infantry, at Decatur. The company was commanded by Captain Frank L. Hayes, still a resident of Decatur. Mr. Carter served until July 12, 1865, and was mustered out at Cincinnati, Ohio. He was mustered in at Camp Butler, Illinois, on the 12th of September, 1862, by Captain Fred E. De Coursey and went to Covington, Kentucky, where he remained for a short time. He was then sent back to Cincinnati on account of illness and was detailed as clerk in the hospital, filling that position until the close of the war. When the country no longer needed his military aid he returned to Decatur and for four years thereafter was employed as a clerk in a dry goods store. He afterward engaged in clerking in a cigar store for two years and subsequently accepted a position as timekeeper on the Wabash Railroad, acting in that capacity for two years. He next went into the tax collector's office as assistant, filling that position for a short time, after which he again held the office of assistant collector for many years. In 1884 he was elected collector and in 1897 he was appointed to fill a vacancy in the office. He afterward was assistant to the collector until 1906, since which time he has practically lived retired, now occupying a beautiful home at No. 152 West Prairie avenue.

Mr. Carter was married in Decatur, June 29, 1882, to Mrs. Sarah E. Sponsler, the wedding ceremony being performed by the Rev. W. H. Moore. She was born in Peoria, Illinois, June 15, 1842, a daughter of William E. and Elizabeth (Taylor) Thompson, the former a native of Connecticut and the latter of Delaware. They removed from Connecticut to Ohio, where the death of the father occurred during the childhood of Mrs. Carter, who was afterward reared by her uncle, Samuel K. Thompson, who removed from Ohio to Decatur, where he engaged in merchandising. He accumulated a great deal of property and was a wealthy man at the time of his death. The mother of Mrs. Carter came to Illinois and died in Bloomington, this state.

Mr. Carter is a prominent and exemplary member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to Macon Lodge, No. 8, A. F. & A. M.; Macon Chapter, No. 21, R. A. M.; Decatur Council, No. 16, R. & S. M.; and Beaumanoir Commandery, No. 9, K. T. He has served as secretary of the lodge and chapter and as recorder of the commandery and is now recorder of the council, while in Dunham Post.

No. 141, G. A. R., of which he is a member, he has filled the office of quartermaster. His wife holds membership in St. John's Episcopal church. Mr. Carter has always endeavored to follow the golden rule as his religious precept, doing unto others as he would have them do unto him. In politics he has long been a republican, active and earnest in support of the party and its principles. He is a gentleman of high character and sterling qualities, honored and esteemed by all who know him and most by those who know him best.

R. D. HUDELSON.

R. D. Hudelson, for many years closely identified with the farming interests of Macon county, is known as one of its most patriotic and useful citizens. He was a true soldier for the Union at the time of the Civil war and in private life he had shown the same characteristic of fidelity to principle that gave him courage on the field of battle. His home in Blue Mound township is a center of hospitality, where all are assured of a hearty greeting. He is a native of Indiana, born in Orange county, August 9, 1848, and is a son of Thomas and Lydia (Elrod) Hudelson, the former having been born in Kentucky in 1809 and the latter in Indiana in 1811. Thomas Hudelson was a farmer and a man of fine character who accomplished a noble mission in assisting in clearing away the forest and preparing for the civilization which the country now enjoys. He was called to his reward in 1876, his wife passing away in 1902. They were buried in Bates county, Missouri. There were ten children in their family, four of whom are now living: John, who served in the Twenty-fourth Indiana Infantry, under General Grant, and is now making his home at Adrian, Missouri; R. D. our subject; William, of Illinois; and Elkana, of Missouri.

R. D. Hudelson was reared on the home farm in Orange county, Indiana, and educated in the district schools. At the age of sixteen he enlisted in the Fifty-third Indiana Volunteer Infantry and participated with his regiment in a number of the great battles of the Army of the West and also in innumerable minor engagements. He was with Sherman on his march to the sea and later was present at the grand review at Washington, after which the regiment was sent to Louisville, Kentucky, where he received his honorable discharge. The Civil war was a rude introduction to the realities of life for one so young, but Private Hudelson came out of the conflict unscathed and in the course of his military experience gained many valuable lessons that were to him of greatest benefit in later years. After laying aside the accoutrements of war he worked on a farm in Missouri and in 1870 came to Blue Mound township, Macon county. Here he was married, after which he farmed on rented land in Macon township, locating permanently in Blue Mound township in 1880 upon eighty acres which his wife inherited from her mother. Later he purchased forty acres and has since made further additions until he now owns a beautiful farm of one hundred and sixty-six acres, which is under a high degree of cultivation. He is a general farmer and stock-raiser and by industry and persever-

ance has attained a position that makes him practically independent for the remainder of his life.

On December 24, 1874, Mr. Hudelson was united in marriage to Miss Mary Meyers, who was born in Blue Mound township, January 21, 1855, a daughter of Hiram and Elmina (Ekel) Meyers. Her father was a native of Germany and her mother of Pennsylvania. They settled in Macon county in the pioneer period and reared a family of three children, all of whom are deceased. The mother died in 1862 and the father passed from earthly scenes twenty-seven years later. Their remains were deposited in the Ekel burying ground, which is located on the farm of our subject. Mrs. Hudelson was called away November 23, 1888, after a married life of fourteen years, which abounded in acts of unselfishness. She was an earnest member of the Methodist church and possessed many beautiful traits of heart and character, and her departure was the greatest sorrow Mr. Hudelson has ever known. She was buried in the same cemetery as her parents.

Eight children brightened the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hudelson, seven of whom are now living. Lydia Elmina, born September 25, 1875, married Oliver T. Weatherford and is the mother of one son, Troy. Mr. Weatherford died on the 21st of February, 1896, and Mrs. Weatherford is now living with her father. Clara Estella and Anna Luella are twins. The former is the wife of Harry Warnick and is living at Pana, Illinois. They have five children, Marie, Blanche, Wilma, Irene and Gladys. Anna Luella married S. P. Ross, of Blue Mound township, and they have four children, Myrtle, May, Robert and Glen. Kyner, born February 6, 1880, lives at home. Bertha Gertrude, born September 9, 1881, is the wife of William Smith, a farmer of South Wheatland township. There are two children in their family, Mary and Dean. William Robert, born August 12, 1883, married Goldie Gleason and lives in Oklahoma. They have two children, Dale and Marion. Grover Cleveland, born June 27, 1885, married Edna Bell and is a farmer of Macon township. They have one son, Homer. Alma Edna, born August 14, 1888, married Charles Stickle and was called away October 25, 1909. Mr. Stickle departed this life six weeks after the death of his wife.

Mr. Hudelson is a stanch adherent of the democratic party and, while he has not urged his claims for public office, he has served most acceptably as road overseer, assessor and member of the school board, occupying the latter position for fourteen years. He takes great interest in religious affairs and he and all the members of his family are connected with the Methodist church, in which he has been an active worker for many years, serving as steward, class leader, treasurer, member of the board of trustees of the local church and circuit and also as Sunday school teacher. All his life he has been controlled largely by a desire to advance the comfort and happiness of others. Hence, he has been a valued member of the community and has greatly assisted in promoting the permanent interests of those with whom he has been associated.

The house in which Mr. Hudelson lives is one of the historic buildings of Macon county. Two of its main rooms, in one of which there was formerly a great fireplace, are over eighty years old, having been part of a building erected by Major William Warnick and his neighbors. Major Warnick was the first sheriff of Macon county and a leading man of central Illinois in the early days.

He was the head of a large family of boys and girls and one of his daughters attracted the attention of a tall young man named Abraham Lincoln, who lived on the opposite side of the Sangamon river. On one of his visits to this home Mr. Lincoln wet his feet and they became frost-bitten so that he was obliged to remain all night at the house. During this stay it is said his interest was aroused by a copy of the statutes of Illinois, which was in the library of Sheriff Warnick, and while looking over those books Lincoln decided to become a student of law. Mr. Hudelson has in his possesion a number of mementos among which is a rail twelve feet long which it is claimed was split by Abraham Lincoln in his early manhood. It has been suggested that the building be purchased and maintained as a memorial to President Lincoln according to a custom well established in eastern states which has become very popular in recent years.

DAVID HENRY CONKLIN.

While Colonel David Henry Conklin was for many years a resident of Decatur and closely associated with its business and social life, he was even more largely a man of national character in his connection with the development of the telegraph and railway interests in the country. His work in those two fields of activity was of inestimable value and it is said that no other man has rescued from financial ruin so many different railway corporations and placed them upon a paying basis. In the midst of perplexing cares and heavy responsibilities that devolved upon him in these connections he maintained a kindly spirit and a social nature that made him popular with all who knew him and he was spoken of in terms of high regard and personal affection from the humblest employe to the most prominent man with whom he was brought in contact.

Colonel Conklin was born in New York city, October 31, 1831, his parents being Joseph and Marie (Blauvelt) Conklin, who were likewise natives of the Empire state, the former having been born in New York city, where he continued to make his home throughout the greater part of his life. The birth of the mother occurred near Gibson, New York.

During his boyhood David Henry Conklin attended the public schools of the metropolis and though his opportunities for an education were somewhat limited he became a man of wide general information through reading, experience and observation. He possessed an observing eye and retentive memory and from the experiences of life gleaned valuable truths which he used as business affairs brought to him wider and greater responsibilities. As a boy he was employed as "devil" in a printing office, where he worked until his apprenticeship had brought him sufficient knowledge to enable him to become a typesetter. After mastering his trade he set type for Horace Greeley, a distinction which perhaps but few men in the country now living can claim. It was about this time that he ceased his activity in the newspaper field to become connected with the newly developing system of telegraphy. The telegraph had been invented only a few years before and had not been brought into commercial use to any extent. Mr. Conklin was one of the first telegraph operators in the world.

He became associated with Ezra B. Cornell, who at that time was experimenting with the practical part of telegraphy, which he had come to recognize would have an important place in the business of the world. Mr. Cornell, perceiving the aptitude and intelligence of Mr. Conklin, selected him as a helper and placed him in charge of the telegraph office on the wharf at Jersey City, Mr. Cornell having instituted an experimental line. It was Mr. Conklin who took the initial step leading to the use of the telegraph in the operation of trains throughout the world. He thought of the idea of allowing two belated trains on the Erie to pass by means of using the telegraph and thus he was the pioneer in operating trains by means of the wire. He became an expert operator and years afterward he was fond of telling a story which involved his remembrance of the telegraph code. When he had become prominent in railway circles he was riding on a special train and as it stopped at a station Mr. Conklin alighted just as the telegraph operator sent over the wire the message: "Look out, the old man is coming your way on a special." Mr. Conklin walked at once to the operator's window and said: "Young man, you had better look out for yourself and let the old man take care of himself." That was all there was to the conversation and the operator never thoroughly understood how Mr. Conklin was quick enough to read the message of warning he had sent.

The Erie Railroad was the first to take up the telegraph for the purpose of running trains and appointed Mr. Conklin as operator at Susquehanna, Pennsylvania. Subsequently he was made agent at Canisteo, New York, and later was chief dispatcher at Owego. When the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Company adopted the telegraph system in the operation of its trains Mr. Conklin was employed as superintendent of the whole system on the road. He built the line and instituted and operated the system of that railroad but later returned to the Erie road and for a time was stationed at Port Jervis, New York.

Mr. Conklin's identification with railway interests in the west dates from 1871, when he accepted a position with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad as train despatcher at Galesburg, while later he occupied a similar position at Aurora. Subsequently he was made superintendent of the Gilman, Clinton & Springfield Railroad with headquarters at Springfield, and subsequently he became superintendent of the Springfield, Illinois & Southeastern, now a part of the Baltimore & Ohio system, still maintaining his home at Springfield. His next appointment made him general superintendent of the Chicago & Paducah, now a part of the Wabash, and he was also superintendent of the Chicago, Peoria & Southwestern, now a part of the Sante Fe. He was the superintendent of construction on the part of the Wabash, then being built from Strawn to Chicago, had headquarters at Bement and was superintendent of the telegraph.

Perhaps Mr. Conklin's most notable work was in the rescue of railways that were a financial wreck. He was made general superintendent of the road that is now the Monon and lived in Indianapolis but was called from that position by the court in his appointment as receiver of the old Illinois Midland. He then removed to Terre Haute, Indiana, but after a short time came to Decatur, carrying on the work from this point. This was in 1882 and he continued to regard this city as his home until his demise, although his duties frequently called him elsewhere. His receivership was highly successful and he was general

manager of the road after it became known as the Terre Haute & Peoria. At the present time it is a part of the Vandalia system. Mr. Conklin retired in 1887 but after a brief period of rest he was called to Bristol, Tennessee, to act as vice president and general manager as well as co-receiver of the Southern Atlantic & Ohio Railroad to which he devoted four or five years' work, adding to his reputation as a saver of wrecked railroads. Following his return to Decatur he was elected mayor of the city and after his retirement from office went to Anderson, Indiana, as general manager of the Chicago & Southeastern Railroad but a year later returned to Decatur and retired altogether from railroad life. His ability in taking a bankrupt road and making it a paying property was indeed notable. He possessed marked executive force and keen discrimination in the power to harmonize and unify seemingly diverse interests and combine them into a coordinate whole. His presence was such as inspired confidence in the men who served under him as well as those who called him to positions of management to save their financial interests. Railroad men throughout the country, both those of the operative departments and those who owned the stock, spoke of him in terms of highest regard and praise for the work which he did.

Mr. Conklin's election to the mayorality of Decatur occurred in 1895 and he filled the office for the full term of two years, discharging his duties in a careful, conscientious manner and with the same promptness and ability that he displayed in the management of business affairs. His pleasant manner was as characteristic of his official as well as his social life, and one who knew him well said: "I never was associated with any one who was more pleasant than Mr. Conklin. During the time that he was mayor he always had a kindly word for everyone and treated with much consideration those with whom he was thrown in his official duties. Since his retirement he has always made regular visits to the city officers and kept up the pleasant acquaintances which he formed while he was mayor."

On the 21st of November, 1853, in Susquehanna, Pennsylvania, Mr. Conklin was married by the Rev. Allen, a Presbyterian minister, to Miss Hannah Leidy, who still survives him together with their two children. The son, Charles Conklin, is one of the oldest conductors of the Wabash Railroad and makes his home most of the time with his mother. The daughter, Mrs. Andrew Stevens, is also a resident of Decatur, her home being at No. 940 West Wood street. Her husband is also identified with railroad affairs, being connected with the Monon. Mr. and Mrs. Stevens have two sons and two daughters: Henry, who at the age of thirty years is assistant cashier in a Chicago bank; Nellie, who resides with her grandmother, Mrs. Conklin; Grace and Charles, still at home.

The death of Mr. Conklin occurred on the 10th of March, 1905, and he was laid to rest in the family burying ground in New York. He was never connected with any secret organizations but held membership in the Presbyterian church, to which Mrs. Conklin still belongs. He was also a prominent member of the Decatur Club and in his last years spent many of his afternoons with friends at his club, greatly enjoying his association there. His connection with telegraph and railway interests brought him a wide acquaintance throughout the east and middle west and wherever he went he made friends. "He was a gentleman of

courtly manners," said one of the local papers, "always dignified and always polite. He was a conspicuous figure here and even after his health broke down he carried himself with the bearing of which few men of his age could boast. While dignified there was nothing lofty or patronizing about him. He liked to meet people, regardless of their station in life, treated them all alike and had a pleasant word for all whom he knew. Forceful and enterprising, intelligent and cultured, he was a gentleman in the truest and best sense of the term."

LOUIS C. WREE.

Louis C. Wree, a farmer and stock-raiser, whose home is on section 26, Niantic township, was born in the village of Niantic on the 31st of July, 1859, and is a son of George and Frederica (Jacobson) Wree. The father was a native of Grundhof Angeln, Germany, born June 6, 1825, and was only four years of age when he lost his father. He had one brother, August, two years older, and a sister, Amelia, three years younger than himself. The mother removed to a farm, whereon the family lived for two years, and then took up her abode in the village of Glossburg. The principal of a school there had been an old classmate of George Wree's father, and he gave to George and his brother and sister good educational advantages.

At sixteen years of age George Wree started in business life as an employe of a wholesale grocery house, with which he was connected for about four years, having the opportunity for one year of that time of living with his mother who had removed again to Angeln. She died there, after which George Wree decided to accept an invitation from his former employer to emigrate with him to America. They started from Hamburg on the 1st of March, 1846, and landed at New York on the 1st of May, at which time only two steamers were making the trip from Bremen to New York. For three years George Wree remained a resident of the new world and then returned to the fatherland in 1849, going to Schleswig, Germany, where he was married on the 15th of February of that year. Soon afterward he started with his bride for America and established his home in Wisconsin, where he worked in the timber for sometime. He afterward removed to Niantic, Illinois, and there engaged in merchandising, becoming one of the representative and progressive business men of the town. At the time of the Civil war he was drafted for service at the front but hired a substitute to take his place. In 1861 he made purchase of the farm upon which his son Louis now resides. In his family were six children: Augusta, born in Two Rivers, Wisconsin, August 21, 1851; William T., born at Cottage Hill, Wisconsin, April 18, 1854; George William, born at Danby, Illinois, May 15, 1855; Louis C.; Clara F., born in Niantic, August 24, 1863; and Henrietta E., born in Niantic, September 21, 1865.

Louis C. Wree spent the first ten years of his life in the village where his birth occurred. His father then removed with his family to the farm which he had purchased and which was a tract of raw prairie land when it came into his possession. For some time he devoted his entire attention to general agricultural pursuits but afterward established a bank at Niantic, together with two

partners, and to the conduct of the bank he gave his attention, filling the position of cashier. He was actively connected with its management for about sixteen years, making it one of the strong financial institutions of the county. He retired, however, about two years prior to his death, which occurred on the 2d of December, 1908. His varied activities had made him a valued citizen of the community and along many lines his efforts were of substantial benefit to the village. In his political views he was a republican, believing firmly in the principles of the party. The cause of education found in him a warm friend and he served for a number of years as school treasurer. He was reared in the Lutheran church and became a member at Long Point, where he served as elder. Later he transferred his membership to the church at Niantic and was also elected elder there. His life was indeed a useful, active, honorable and upright one, and he left to his family not only the fruit of his earnest and unremitting labor but also the priceless heritage of a good name. His wife died July 31, 1893, and both are buried in the Long Point cemetery.

From the age of ten years Louis C. Wree spent his boyhood upon the home farm and acquired a common school education. He was early trained in the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops, and at twenty-one years of age he rented land and began farming on his own account. He was married when only eighteen years of age, the wedding being celebrated in Niantic township, December 27, 1877, the lady of his choice being Miss Nannie Wells, who was born in Kentucky, in which state her parents died during her early girlhood. There was one child of that marriage, William T., who is now bookkeeper in the bank of Niantic. On the 14th of October, 1880, Mr. Wree was again married, his second union being with Miss Sarah C. Parks, who was born in Logan county, Illinois. They have two children: Laura G., the wife of Clinton Baer, of Harristown township, by whom she has two children, Virgil and Russell; and Ethel, who is the wife of Ralph Durflinger, of Niantic township.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Wree are members of the Christian church of Niantic, in which he is serving as deacon, and in the work of which they are actively and helpfully interested. Mr. Wree belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp. His political allegiance is given to the republican party, which he has supported since casting his first presidential ballot for James A. Garfield in 1880. He does not seek nor desire office, however, preferring to give his undivided time and attention to his business affairs. His entire life has been devoted to farming and his energy, close application and diligence constitute the chief features in his success.

L. H. ALVORD.

L. H. Alvord, president of the Decatur Fountain Company, is a business man whose enterprising spirit and laudable purpose are constantly pushing forward to the attainment of success in the field in which he labors and his efforts are of a character that contribute to the material development of the city as well as to individual prosperity. A native of Illinois, he was born in Piatt county, April 10, 1858, and secured his education in the schools of Bement, Illinois.

On putting aside his text-books he engaged in the grocery business in Bement, continuing in that department of merchandising until 1908, when he sold out.

With his family Mr. Alvord then came to Decatur, where he has since been identified with the Decatur Fountain Company. This company was organized in January, 1907, and capitalized for fifty thousand dollars. They are manufacturers of soda fountains and store fixtures, and in addition handle soda fountain accessories. Their plant is located at the north end of Lowber street in the Chamber of Commerce addition, and they have two buildings, sixty by one hundred and fifty feet each, making theirs an extensive plant. Their employes number from thirty-five to sixty-five according to the season and the payroll amounts to from three hundred and fifty to six hundred dollars weekly. The officers are: L. H. Alvord, president; K. Merris, secretary; George R. Bacon, treasurer; and W. H. Stouffer, superintendent. In addition to these Robert Mueller and George R. Bacon are members of the board of directors. The business was originally started as a mail order business but after a short time salesmen were put on the road and the trade has since been steadily growing until they now have an extensive business with trade connections throughout the greater part of the southwest and even eastward into Maine. The business has been carefully systematized under the capable management of Mr. Alvord, who bends his energies to executive control and administrative direction. His energy is unfailing and the success which has come to him is the merited reward of persistent and intelligently directed effort.

On the 2d of June, 1880, Mr. Alvord was united in marriage to Miss Eleanor Williams, of Monticello, Illinois, and they have one daughter, Grace. The family occupies a beautiful home at No. 1105 Oak Crest. Mr. Alvord gives his political allegiance to the republican party, and while living in Bement served as supervisor. He holds membership in the Woodmen camp and in the Masonic fraternity, belonging to Bement Lodge, No. 365, A. F. & A. M.; Bement Chapter, No. 65, R. A. M.; and Beaumanoir Commandery, No. 9, K. T. Social qualities render him popular, while business ability has gained him prominence and prosperity. His life work proves the fact that success is ambition's answer.

JESSE W. DIVAN.

Jesse W. Divan, whose death occurred on the 7th of October, 1909, was for many years well known in Decatur and throughout Macon county, where he was closely associated with agricultural interests. Moreover, he was one of the veterans of the Civil war, who bravely espoused the cause of the Union when the Confederacy disavowed the power of the American government. He was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, on the 8th of November, 1844, and spent his youthful days upon the home farm with his parents, his early experiences being those which usually fall to the lot of the farm lad, who devotes the winter seasons to the acquirement of a common-school education and the summer months to the work of the fields. He remained at home until 1864, when, at the age of nineteen years, he responded to the country's call for troops, joining the army

in October as a member of Company C, Seventy-eighth Regiment of Ohio Infantry. He continued with that command until the close of the war and participated in a number of important engagements, ever faithfully discharging the duties that devolved upon him as a soldier.

Soon after the close of the war Mr. Divan was married on the 30th of November, 1865, to Miss Mahala E. Burch, who was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, on the 25th of November, 1840. In the fall of 1866 they came to Macon county, Illinois, settling east of Decatur upon a farm which continued to be their home for almost three decades, or until 1895, when they sold that property and removed to Iowa, settling near Storm Lake. For eight years Mr. Divan engaged in general agricultural pursuits in that locality, after which he returned to Macon county and settled in Decatur occupying the home which is now the residence of his widow at No. 1213 North Union street. There he continued until his death, which occurred on the 7th of October, 1909, when he had reached the age of sixty-four years and eleven months.

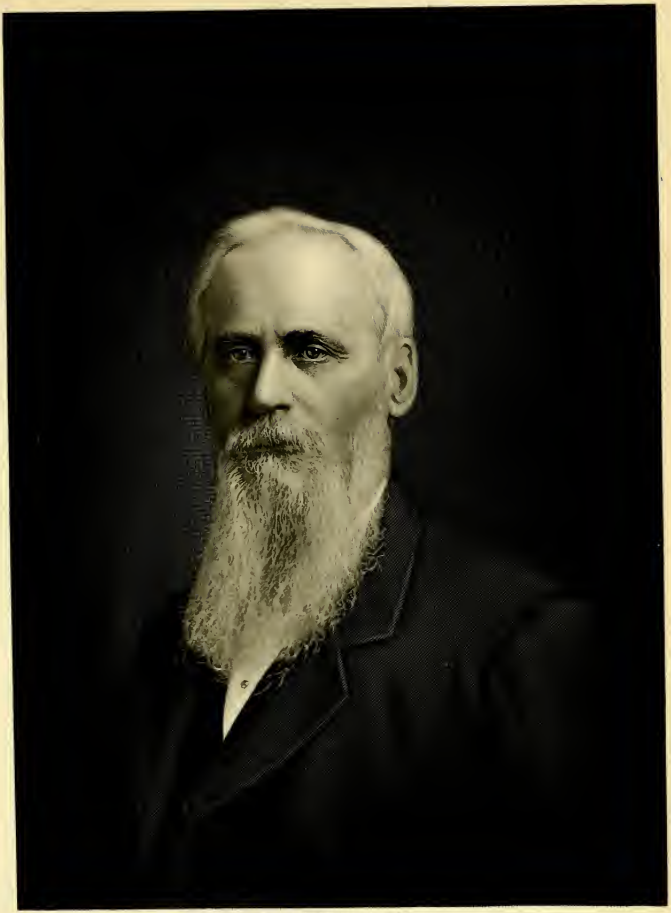
Unto Mr. and Mrs. Divan were born four children: E. J., who was born in Macon county; Worthy J., also a native of this county; Mrs. Cora B. Peniwell and Mrs. Jessie R. Walker, also natives of Macon county.

Mr. Divan was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and thus maintained pleasant relations with his old army comrades. In politics he was always a republican, firm and unfaltering in his support of the party. He did all in his power to promote its interests and to further its welfare and he was a devoted member of the Presbyterian church of Decatur. His wife was the expression of high and honorable principles and conformed to the teachings of the church. He endeavored at all times to live peaceably with his fellowmen, to deal justly with them and to act conscientiously. His sterling qualities were widely recognized and wherever he was known high regard was given him.

EDWARD GILES POWERS.

Edward Giles Powers whose life has been devoted to art and music, in which connection he has gained much more than local reputation, was born September 7, 1861, in Decatur, where he yet makes his home. He is a son of Samuel Powers, an honored pioneer resident of this city, now deceased. His more specifically literary educafion was acquired in Jacksonville and in Philadelphia, while his musical education was obtained partially as a student in the New England Conservatory of Boston. His training has been received under some of the best masters, so that he has made excellent progress in the development of the natural taste and talent with which nature endowed him and he has traveled extensively in foreign lands.

On the 5th of April, 1905, Mr. Powers was married to Miss Bell McKee, a daughter of Edward Davis and Fanny Vorhees (Armstrong) McKee. The family is a well known and distinguished one of Portland, Oregon. Mr. and Mrs. Powers have two children: Fanny Armstrong, who is so called in honor of her maternal grandmother; and Caroline Maria, who bears the name of her paternal grandmother.



Samuel Perves

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Powers is one of the artistic residences of Decatur. It is situated some distance from the road and is approached by a fine driveway. The house is a frame dwelling, standing in the midst of spacious grounds, beautifully adorned by flowers, shrubs and shade trees. It is in some respects a typical New England home and has but recently been completed. It was made after a sketch drawn by Mr. Powers, who employed an architect to draw up the plans. The interior indicates artistic taste and selection and Mr. Powers, being a lover of fine paintings, has chosen some canvases that indicate the master's hand. The arrangement of the electric lights is such as to show these to the best advantage. Among the notable and beautiful paintings which adorn his walls are a Quebec scene from St. Lawrence river, by Birge Harrison; a Colorado sunset and a golden sunset by Charles Partridge Adams; and a decoration of the Mississippi river, by a St. Louis artist. The decorations of the rooms are all in perfect harmony, the floors are covered with the finest of Oriental rugs and designs, colors, lights and shades all make of the home a perfect picture. Mrs. Powers has made a collection of Indian baskets from all over the western world, showing some particularly fine specimens. Mr. Powers is president of the Municipal Art League. He is a lover of good horses, is himself a fine horseman, and he is the owner of a cotton plantation in the south. His home is a most hospitable one and is the delight of visitors who are in any degree endowed with artistic perception.

DERIAS BUCKLES.

Derias Buckles, an extensive stock-dealer and shipper, whose home is on section 2, Niantic township, in the midst of a tract of two hundred and thirty acres of land, was born on a farm two and a half miles southwest of Mount Pulaski, Logan county, on the 18th of February, 1850. Reared to agricultural pursuits, he has always continued to engage in farming and the kindred business of stock-raising, and is today one of the extensive landowners of central Illinois. His parents were John and Esther Jane (Scroggin) Buckles.

Although nothing is definitely known concerning the founding of the family in this country, it is determined from the disposition and character of their descendants that the ancestors of our subject were akin to the sober-minded Pilgrims of New England or the industrious Puritans of the middle and southern colonies. "They were a substantial, religious, industrious and self-reliant people," writes a contemporary biographer. "His immediate ancestors were good representatives of the average men and the energetic, strong-minded middle class who settled in the wilderness of the Prairie state. They belonged to a family who were never reduced to a state of poverty and who have never acquired great riches, although they have always been comfortably situated according to the times as far back as tradition extends."

The first of the name of whom we have definite record was John Buckles, who is thought to be of English lineage. He was born in Virginia, in 1772, and in 1795 married Anna Vandeventer. Their children were Robert, Abraham,

Abigail, Sarah, Thomas, Andrew, William, James and Washington four of whom were born in White county, Illinois when this state was still under territorial rule. In 1822 John Buckles became a resident of Logan county and ten years later removed to McLean county, residing near the village of Le Roy until his death in 1842. His wife passed away in 1857. Another of the great-grandparents of Derias Buckles was Jeremiah Birks, who was born in Georgia and married Elizabeth Brown, by whom he had eight children, Polly, Rial, Riley, Levina, David, Rolland, Sarah and Betsey. His second wife was Rhoda Collins, daughter of Hugh Collins, and their six children were Isom, Sarah, Riley, Ann, Permelia and Richard. Jeremiah Birks removed to White county, Illinois, in 1812 and four years later went to Missouri but in 1822 returned to Illinois, settling in Logan county, where he lived until his death.

Robert Buckles, grandfather of Derias Buckles, was born in Tennessee, April 29, 1796, and with his father came to Illinois when the state was largely a wilderness. In 1818 he wedded Mary (Polly) Birks, who in 1812 had accompanied her parents to White county, Illinois. When they removed to Logan county in 1822 there were only six families living within its present boundaries. Many Indians still inhabited the state and the forests and prairies were the haunts of wild beasts and of wild game. Robert Buckles was fond of hunting and was particularly skillful with the rifle. The family met the usual experiences and hardships of frontier life. Mrs. Buckles did all the cooking in the open fireplace, made all the clothing for the family from the raw material and when her husband was necessarily away on long trips taking stock to market she would split the wood for the fireplace. The death of Robert Buckles occurred when he was seventy years of age, and twenty-three years later his wife was laid by his side in Steenbergen cemetery, where the words "Father" and "Mother" upon their tombstones indicate the affectionate remembrance of their children. They had a family of fifteen sons and daughters, William R., Jeremiah B., John, Elizabeth, Levina, Andrew, Peter, Chalton C., Mary, Robert, Wiley, Henry H., Sarah J., Elmira and Lucinda M.

John Buckles, father of Derias Buckles, was born in a small log cabin in White county, Illinois, October 7, 1822, and three weeks later his parents removed to Logan county, the father erecting a cabin in the forest near the stream now known as the Lake Fork ditch. Roaming over the prairies and through the woods he spent his boyhood days and learned to use the rifle with good effect, his prowess being indicated in the many coons, prairie chickens and other game which he killed. His educational privileges were extremely limited, probably covering not more than a year altogether. In school he sat upon the log bench with the ground for a floor, while the knees of the pupils served as their desks. It was thought that the only thing necessary for instruction for the boy was arithmetic and his real training came to him in the school of pioneer experience —a school that develops force and foresight, strengthens courage and resolution, cultivates sagacity, teaches independence of judgment, promptness of action and anticipation of danger—in fact, it brings forth all the qualities of mind necessary to a frontiersman or a successful trader. In 1846 he was employed by John Slaughter to aid in driving cattle to New York and for this service he received twelve dollars per month. A similar trip was made the following year,

one hundred days being required on the outward journey and thirty days on the return. Previous to this he had assisted his father in driving hogs to Racine, Wisconsin, and sheep to St. Louis, Missouri, for Chicago at that time had not become recognized as a stock market.

On his return from New York in 1847 John Buckles wedded Esther J. Scroggin, a daughter of Carter T. Scroggin, who was born in Kentucky in 1796. When fifteen years of age he went to Gallatin county, Illinois, and later married Phebe Shelby, who had settled in Pope county with her parents a few years before. In 1828 Mr. Scroggin and his wife removed to Logan county, where he built a log cabin and began the development of a farm. He and his wife were devoted members of the Baptist church, and he was a firm supporter of democratic principles. He was of Scotch parentage and his wife of Welsh descent. His death occurred in 1859 and Mrs. Scroggin passed away in 1876. Their ten children were Leonard K., Mary A., Russel L., Humphrey, Esther J., Sarah E., Carter T., Pleasant M., Thomas J. and Ellen C.

A few days after the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. John Buckles they removed to a small frame house, which he had built—one of the first frame buildings in the county. It stood on a tract of forty acres, three miles southwest of Mount Pulaski, which had been entered by him in 1843 at a cost of a dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. He made the rails that fenced the land, the shingles that covered the house and, in fact, all of the improvements upon the place. In limited financial circumstances at the outset of their married life, they achieved success in the course of years, their land grew in value and in time they came to be recognized as among the most substantial citizens of the county. From time to time Mr. Buckles added to his land and as opportunity offered secured the comforts of the older east. Clapboard roofs, a fireplace, the walls of which were made of clay, hickory bottom chairs, a slab table were all features of the pioneer homes. As there were no gristmills corn was ground in a hollowed out block, honey and maple sugar served for sweetening purposes and corn husking was one of the favorite amusements of the people. All clothing was home-made, tallow candles were generally used and, in fact, the settlers had to provide almost all of the necessities of the household.

As time passed on John Buckles began raising and dealing in cattle and in time became one of the most prominent stockmen of this section of the state, shipping thousands of cattle and hogs to different markets througout the entire country. At the age of nineteen he became a member of the Christian church, remaining one of its loyal advocates and liberal supporters from that time forward. He has been interested in every department of church work and in 1890 he donated two thousand five hundred dollars to Eureka College for the education of ministers. Until 1875 he was a firm advocate of republican principles but in that year became a stanch prohibitionist, supporting the party which upheld his opinions concerning the temperance question. A biography written of him in 1897 said: "He is of a robust constitution, invigorated by long outdoor occupation, rigid temperance and orderly habits. In all business transactions he is and has been just and impartial. His friends are innumerable, made as fast as acquaintances, and whenever a name is added to his list it is taken therefrom only by death. Though nearly seventy-five years of age he

still assists in driving stock and makes one daily trip to the city of Mount Pulaski, a distance of three miles." His wife was born in Logan county, February 29, 1828. Her duty in girlhood was the spinning of seventy cuts of wool per day or in weaving cloth from early morning until late at night. Always a lover of the beautiful in nature, she has ever cultivated fine flowers, has done much fancy work and has secured an excellent collection of beautiful shells and rocks on her travels in this country along the seashore.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. John Buckles were born four children. Elias, born in 1848, was married in 1868, to Betty Dyer, and they became parents of ten children. Elias Buckles is now in the grain business, his residence being near the old home farm. Derias is the second of the family. Phebe C., the only daughter, born in 1851, was married in 1869 to a Mr. Phipps, who took his own life probably in a fit of temporary insanity. His widow in 1876 became the wife of Ode Turley, and to them were born two children, the surviving child being Elmer, who owns and occupies a good farm in this county. The death of Mrs. Turley occurred in 1889. John M., the youngest child of Mr. Buckles, was born in 1858 and at the age of twenty-one married Alice Rankin. The three sons have become extensive farmers and successful business men.

When success had crowned his efforts John Buckles allowed himself the privilege and pleasure of travel and accompanied by his wife made various trips to different parts of the country, visiting the expositions at Philadelphia, New Orleans and Chicago in 1876, 1885 and 1893 respectively. In 1894 he visited the Pacific coast and previously had visited various noted winter resorts of the south. The commodious two story brick residence, which Mr. Buckles erected in 1864, is still one of the finest and most substantial farm residences of the county. The place which John Buckles has ever occupied in public regard is a most enviable one. His name is associated with all that is honorable in individual relations and in citizenship and his business integrity has never been questioned. He has thus provided for his family not only a handsome competence but also that good name which is rather to be chosen than great riches.

Derias Buckles, reared to manhood in Logan county, acquired his education in the public schools and through the days of his youth assisted his father in raising and feeding stock. He remained upon the old home farm until twenty-five years of age, when he was married near Mount Pulaski, on the 18th of February, 1875, to Miss Alice Turley, who is a native of the same locality and a daughter of Robert and Sarah J. (Rankin) Turley.

Soon after their marriage Mr. Buckles and his wife removed to a farm of eight hundred acres in Niantic township, owned by his father. At that time it was practically unimproved but there was a small cabin and stable upon it, which Mr. Buckles had built the previous fall. Later his father gave him the farm and he lived upon it for about nine years. He then purchased two hundred acres adjoining, paying fifty-five dollars per acre for eighty acres and fifty dollars for the remaining one hundred and twenty acres. Upon that place he remained for about six years and in 1890 he purchased his present farm for sixty-six dollars per acre. He has since built a fine residence and good barn and has added all the equipments and accessories of a model farm of the twentieth century, his place being one of the best improved in the township.

In addition to this he has one hundred and fourteen acres south of Niantic, which he purchased for eighty dollars per acre and which is now worth two hundred dollars. He has altogether about twenty-one hundred acres located in Macon, Logan and Sangamon counties, thirteen hundred and sixty-five acres being in Macon and five hundred ad seventy-five in Sangamon county. In 1871 he went with others to Texas to buy cattle, which they drove into Kansas, and after herding them in that state for a time shipped them to Logan county, where they were fed for the market. He has extensive live-stock as well as farming interests and is recognized as one of the most progressive agriculturists in this part of the state.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Buckles has been born a daughter, Cora Jane, whose birth occurred March 25, 1876. She was educated in the Hamilton Female College in Louisville, Kentucky, and later spent two years in another college. She married Harry Cowdin and died March 28, 1904, leaving a daughter, Cora B. Cowdin, who is now living with her grandparents.

In his political views Mr. Buckles has always been a republican since casting his first presidential vote in 1872, but the honors and emoluments of office have had no attraction for him. He belongs to the Christian church, in the faith of which he was reared, and is serving as a trustee of the church at Niantic. The name of Buckles is inseparably interwoven with the history of Logan county, for through eighty-eight years representatives of the name have there resided. The work instituted by his grandparents and carried on by his father has been further continued by him in making Logan county one of the richest and most prosperous agricultural districts of this great state. In business matters his judgment is sound, his sagacity keen and his integrity unassailable, and in all matters of citizenship he stands on the side of progress, reform and improvement.

LOUIS D. BOSSLER.

Louis D. Bossler, deceased, was numbered among the highly respected citizens of Decatur and Macon county, and his death, which occurred September 14, 1908, caused deep sorrow not only in his own household but also among his numerous friends and acquaintances. He was born on a farm about five miles north of Decatur, his natal day being December 8, 1865. His father, John G. Bossler, was a well known farmer of Macon county and was also an honored veteran of the Civil war, in which he served for three years. He did valiant service at the front and took part in some of the most important battles, including Gettysburg, Shiloh, Island No. 10 and many others.

Spending the days of his boyhood and youth in his parents' home, Louis D. Bossler acquired his education in the district schools nearby and when not engaged with his text-books assisted in the work on the home place. There amid the activities of rural life he learned lessons concerning the value of integrity, industry and perseverance, and soon became familiar with the best methods of plowing, planting and harvesting. When starting out to face the responsibilities of life on his own account, he chose the occupation to which he

had been reared and accordingly engaged in farming in Macon county. Here he remained until 1903, when he removed to a farm which he purchased in Shelby county, near Assumption, his place embracing one hundred and forty acres. After devoting his attention for four years to agricultural pursuits in Shelby county, his health became impaired and he then returned to Macon county. He purchased a nice residence in Decatur, located at No. 1059 West Wood street, and there for a year prior to his demise he liver in honorable retirement. His death, however, occurred in Shelby county while on a visit to his brother, the immediate cause being pneumonia. His remains were brought back to Decatur and interred in beautiful Greenwood cemetery. He was very successful in his business affairs and when he died he left to his family a valuable farm property of one hundred and forty acres in Shelby county, in addition to a good residence in Decatur, where his family still reside, and all his holdings were entirely free of indebtedness. His farm property was purchased for one hundred dollars per acre and today it is worth at least two hundred and twenty-five dollars per acre.

It was on Christmas day of 1890, in Decatur, that the marriage of Mr. Bossler and Miss Minnie Ivens was celebrated, the Rev. Allen, pastor of the Church of God, performing the ceremony. Mrs. Bossler was born in Pennsylvania, January 2, 1865, and by her marriage she has become the mother of two children, Otis Linn and Almira Ruth Bossler, both at home with their mother.

Mr. Bossler was a firm believer in temperance and always cast his ballot in support of the prohibition party. He was a charter member of Modern Woodmen Camp, No. 1676, at Forsyth, and a leading member of the Christian church in Decatur, and his life was in harmony with his professions. He had a reputation for fair and honorable dealing unsurpassed by any man in the community. He practiced what he preached to others and leaves a name that will be an honor to his family.

PETER LOEB.

There was no dissenting opinion when it was said of Peter Loeb that "he was always honorable in his dealing, kindly and generous, and that his word was as good as his bond. He made his way in the world step by step, with a kindly feeling for all, without pulling any one down that he might step in his place." Such a eulogy any might covet. He did not seek fame and honor such as brings one into wide prominence but he sought at all times to do his duty and did it with a singleness of purpose that none questioned.

The early home of Peter Loeb was on the other side of the Atlantic, for he was born near Bingen on the Rhine, in Prussia, Germany, June 28, 1840, and was about twelve years of age when he crossed the Atlantic in 1852 and became a resident of New Jersey. His father was a Prussian, who had been compromised in the revolution of 1848 and was at last betrayed by a man he believed his friend. He was obliged to flee hurriedly to this land of the free and settled in New Jersey, but he remained there for only a year, when he re-

moved to Dayton, Ohio. His son evidently inherited his love of liberty and when the Civil war broke out espoused the cause of the Union, enlisting in the First Ohio Regiment and participating in the first battle of Bull Run, in which he was wounded. Later he returned to Dayton, where he continued to make his home until 1876. At that time he came to Decatur and was actively identified with the industrial activity of this city until his death, which occurred on the 28th of March, 1904.

In early life Mr. Loeb became a foundryman and thoroughly mastered the business to which he ever afterward devoted the greater part of his time and attention. He was the founder of the malleable iron works of Dayton, Ohio, and on selling out there came to Decatur, where he established a gray iron foundry, which he conducted with marked success until 1886. Having prospered in his undertakings, he was then able to live retired, and he and his wife went to California with the intention of making their home in that state but after remaining there a short time returned to Decatur and here erected the beautiful residence at No. 300 West Prairie avenue which is now occupied by Mrs. Loeb.

On the 18th of March, 1863, Mr. Loeb was married in Troy, Ohio, to Miss Caroline S. Woodmen, who was born near Dayton, in Montgomery county, July 3, 1844. Her father, Samuel Woodmen, was a native of Frederick county, Maryland, and was one of a family of three sons, his brothers being Thomas and William. In early manhood he wedded Mary E. Miller, a native of Berks county, Pennsylvania, and they made their home on a farm near Dayton, where he continued to engage in agricultural pursuits throughout the remainder of his life. His children were William, John, Thomas, Samuel, Nancy, Margaret, Lucy, Mary and Mahala.

During the dark days of the Civil war Mr. Loeb manifested his loyalty to his adopted country by enlisting in Company B, First Ohio Regiment, with which he served for about two years. The republican party found in him a stanch supporter of its principles but he never took an active part in politics. In 1877 he united with the Presbyterian church of Decatur and became one of its most active and prominent members. He was chairman of the building committee at the time of the erection of the Millikin University and at one time served as park commissioner. Of a cheerful and sociable disposition, he was a prominent member of the Masonic order, in which he attained the thirty-second degree, and also held membership in the Decatur and Country Clubs. At one time he affiliated with the Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias but was not connected with those orders at the time of his death. Upright and honorable in all his dealings, he was ever found true to every trust reposed in him, and he commanded the respect and confidence of all with whom he was brought in contact either in business or social life. On the death of Mr. Loeb services were held in Decatur which were most largely attended, after which the remains were taken to his old home in Dayton, Ohio, for interment, the Knights Templar Commandery, of which he was a member, participating in the service. In Dayton funeral services were held in the First Reformed church, of which Mr. Loeb had formerly been a member, and funeral rites were in charge of the Knights Templar.

On the death of Mr. Loeb, who was one of the original members of the local board of managers of the Decatur College and Industrial School of the James Millikin University, the following resolutions were passed:

"Faculty rooms of the Decatur College and Industrial School of The James Millikin University.

"Whereas, death has removed from our midst Mr. Peter Loeb, a member of the local board of managers of The James Millikin University and one of the most efficient and tireless workers in its behalf—

"We desire to record our deep sense of loss and to testify to our high regard of his worth as a citizen and a friend of the institution.

"We cherish on our behalf and commend to the student body and to all his acquaintances the sterling personal qualities of honesty, thoroughness and integrity which characterized Mr. Loeb in his private and public relations. We believe that his unselfish work in the organization of the material equipment of the university fitly exemplifies these qualities of mind and heart and trust that it may serve as a worthy memorial to be used of Providence to keep active similar ideals among us. We as a faculty do hereby cordially extend to Mrs. Loeb our sincere sympathy in her great loss and make this statement a part of the permanent faculty record and instruct the president to forward a copy of the resolutions to Mrs. Loeb.

T. W. Galloway,
J. H. Gill,
A. R Taylor, President. Committee."

"Office of the board of managers of the Decatur College and Industrial School of The James Millikin University.

"Mr. Peter Loeb, one of the original members of the board of managers of the Decatur College and Industrial School of The James Millikin University, departed this life on Monday afternoon, March 28, 1904. We, his associates in the board, wish to express our sincere and generous appreciation of his disinterested and indefatigable labors in the organization and inauguration of the work of that institution. As chairman of the building committee his large experience as a builder, his alertness in grasping details, his wisdom in dealing with perplexing problems and his keen sense of the sacredness of the trust reposed in him enabled him to be of invaluable service in the construction of the college buildings. He made them a daily study and much of their excellence and stability is the result of his wise planning.

"In the consideration of the various other problems connected with our work he displayed a knowledge of affairs that always gave his advice and counsel great weight with the board. He was seldom absent from any meeting during the past three years and seemed to count it a high privilege to contribute his time and strength to the inauguration of this great enterprise.

"We have ever found him the soul of honor, the courteous, considerate associate, a devoted, sympathetic friend, and enterprising public-spirited citizen. His work is the best monument and his memory will always serve to stimulate us to imitate his virtues.

"It is ordered that this expression of our appreciation and esteem of our departed friend and brother be spread upon the minutes of this board and that

a copy of the same be furnished his bereaved wife with assurance of our heartfelt sympathy and of our abiding friendship and interest.

I. R. Mills,
President of the board of managers.

T. E. Walker,
Secretary."

Perhaps no better estimate of the life and character of Mr. Loeb can be given than in the words of those who knew him personally. One who knew him long and well said: "He came to Decatur more than a quarter of a century ago with no thought of remaining permanently, but he entered into our business and social life in a way that made it nearly impossible to leave this city and the interests of Decatur have been very near his heart ever since. From his early manhood he must have been a strong man in every sense of that word. He was imbued with the idea that whatever you engage to do should be done well; that you should put the best that there is in you in your work. As a result, he soon understood all the finer points about his trade of a founder. The bare knowledge to do his work acceptably was not enough for Peter Loeb. He had to learn all the art and science, by which the master founders performed nearly impossible feats. With very little fundamental education he added to his knowledge of science and of general affairs by reading and coming in contact with all sorts and conditions of men until he became a man who could sustain himself creditably in any gathering. More than once had he been advanced in his career because he knew just a little more than his fellows. Peter Loeb was essentially a man of action, and it seems to me we are giving him high praise when we say 'He was a man who did things.' I believe the masses of our great Anglo-Saxon conglomerate people have a hearty admiration for the man who begins as a toiler and by the use of brain and brawn conquers the difficult problems of his business and wins success at last; who all along the weary way never faints or falters and holds through it all the respect and confidence of his friends and neighbors."

Dr. Taylor in his funeral oration said: "Though having limited opportunities in an educational way in his youth Mr. Loeb with rare industry and perseverance, extending through almost the whole of his actual business career, strove to attain a better knowledge of letters and science until he became a man of unusual general information and of surprising accuracy and skill in dealing with a variety of problems. He was well informed on current events, on modern scientific discoveries and on the latest developments in the various lines of engineering which were particularly to his taste. His acquaintance with affairs made him a ready converser and an entertaining companion. No one could be with him for an hour without being impressed with his dignity and force of character. He was methodical and masterful in business matters and his associates often naturally deferred to his leadership in the various enterprises in which they were engaged. His artistic sense was of the highest sort, as shown in his work in the public parks while a member of the park board and in the private and public buildings erected by him or in whose construction he was interested. He was a devoted husband and loved in his home, in whose building and furnishing he took the greatest

pride. He was a loyal friend, a kind neighbor, a model citizen. Immediately on coming to Decatur nearly three years ago I became intimately associated with Mr. Loeb as a member of the board of managers of the Decatur College and Industrial School and as chairman of its general building committee. I was greatly gratified to find not only that he was most happily fitted for his responsible duties but that he was throwing himself in the enterprise with unrestrained energy and enthusiasm. His large experience, his extensive travels and observations made him invaluable at almost every step. He gave his time and his thought to the institution without stint and this community will always owe him a debt of gratitude for his unselfish devotion to its interests. Decatur has cause to remember him most kindly for his many services to her as a private citizen, as an energetic business man and as a trusted public servant, but for no one of them so much as for the part he took in the erection of the beautiful and well appointed buildings which adorn Oakland park and house the vigorous young university of which we are justly proud. He had his faults—who has not? but I have met few men who were so conscious of them and who so freely confessed them. That was the charm of his life to me. He was as rugged mentally and morally as he was physically and at times seemed imperious and perhaps unreasonable, but his frank self criticism afterwards never failed to increase my admiration for him. He was as quick as a woman to respond to the cries of the unfortunate and his heart was as tender as that of a child. His sense of justice was of the good old Saxon order and he was always ready to contend for what he believed was right. Though not seeing eye to eye with some of us, his impulses were true to the best of the race. He had no patience with disorder and lawlessness and believed in civic as well as private virtue as essential to good government and industrial prosperity."

E. W. BARKMAN.

E. W. Barkman, for many years a blacksmith and now in the employ of the Decatur Railway & Light Company, was born in Polo, Ogle county, Illinois, March 15, 1855, a son of W. H. and Catharine (Bomberger) Barkman. The father is a native of Frederick county, Maryland, and is now residing in Polo, at the age of eighty-two years. He spent fifty years to a day at the blacksmith's trade, but since retired. The mother was born in Hagerstown, Maryland, and there she was married in 1849, when she removed with her husband to Ogle county, Illinois.

E. W. Barkman was educated in the public schools at Polo until he was fourteen years of age and then began to work in his father's shop. At the age of seventeen he become a journeyman at his trade and after three years started a shop on his own account at Belle Plaine, Iowa. Later he engaged in the blacksmith business at different points in Iowa and in May, 1881, removed to Denver, Colorado, and spent eight years in the Rocky mountains, a large part of which time was devoted to mining for gold and silver. During this period he traveled extensively in the mining regions and made some money which he expended in

prospecting and attempting to develop properties which failed to pay. Having come to the conclusion that his trade could more safely be relied upon than the tantalizing search for the yellow metal, he returned to Polo in 1892 and opened a blacksmith shop. Later he was employed by a gutta-percha manufacturing company and traveled on the road, retaining his home in Polo. In 1897 he located in Decatur, in charge of a blacksmith shop, and is now identified with the Decatur Railway & Light Company.

On January 6, 1881, Mr. Barkman was united in marriage to Miss Rena Hill, of Tama, Iowa, and three children were born to them: Nina, who married Carl Harrison, an undertaker of Tama, and is the mother of two children: Inda, who married Charles Evans, engaged in the automobile business in Chicago, and is the mother of one child, George Evans; and Robert, of Eagle Grove, Iowa. Mrs. Barkman having been called away, our subject was again married October 12, 1898, at Decatur, Illinois, his second union being with Mrs. Amanda (Morris) Childs, a native of Macon county, Illinois, and a daughter of Cornelius and Margaret (Cox) Morris. By her first marriage she had two children: Grace, who married Harry Kramer, of Colorado, and is the mother of one son, Morris; and George, an electrician, now living with Mr. and Mrs. Barkman.

Mr. Barkman is a stanch supporter of the republican party but has never been a seeker for political honors. He has been identified with a number of fraternal organizations, among which may be named the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America, having filled the chairs in all the subordinate lodges named. He and his wife are members of Bay Leaf Camp No. 29, Royal Neighbors, of which she has served as oracle and past oracle, and both hold membership in the Pythian Sisters. Mr. Barkman has passed through many vicissitudes in his life and has seen a great deal of the world in its various phases. He has also experienced some of its joys and now in the enjoyment of the comforts of a quiet home and congenial companionship of a sympathetic wife he appreciates the advantages that the world seeks through the acquisition of financial compensation. Mr. Barkman is a man of strong social characteristics and has many friends who admire him for his sturdy character and also for the sincere interest he takes in the welfare of those with whom he is associated.

CYRUS WILLIAM LINDSEY.

Cyrus William Lindsey, well known as a liveryman and veterinarian of Decatur, is a native of Illinois, born in Tamaroa, April 5, 1876. He is a son of Cyrus and Sarah Bell (Campbell) Lindsey, both of whom were natives of Tennessee and came to Illinois previous to the breaking out of the Civil war. The father enlisted in the Thirteenth Illinois Cavalry and served for three years and eight months, participating in many of the great battles of the rebellion. He was several times wounded but never seriously. He lost his health, however, from exposure, although he continued until after the surrender of Gen-

eral Lee and the great army of the north was disbanded. He died at Tamaroa in the spring of 1877, at the age of thirty-nine years. The beloved mother of our subject is living with him at his home in Decatur and is now sixty-four years of age.

There were seven children in the family, Cyrus W. Lindsey being the youngest. He was educated in the common schools of Illinois and having a natural liking for horses and other live stock he early secured employment on a farm and became identified with the race-horse business, driving and riding horses upon the track. He soon became quite proficient but in 1893, having decided to conduct an establishment on his own account, he began in the livery and baggage transfer business on Wood street in Decatur. Starting on a small scale, he gradually acquired a liberal patronage and at the present time is the owner of fifty-five horses and many vehicles including taxi-cabs, which he always aims to keep in the best of order, thus meeting the requirements of the highest class of patrons. He is the only man in the city who has transferred baggage and passengers for all the hotels in Decatur, which line he makes a specialty, and he has met with most excellent success. He also does an extensive business in buying and selling horses. In 1891-2 he took two courses of eight months each in veterinary surgery and became quite skilled in a line in which there is frequent demand for his services.

On March 2, 1898, Mr. Lindsey was united in marriage to Miss Josephine Dowling, a daughter of John and Mary Dowling, of Pana, Illinois. Mrs. Lindsey was the seventh child in a family of nine and was born October 31, 1883. Two children have come to bless the union: Bonniline and Clarence.

In politics Mr. Lindsey supports the principles of the republican party. Although a young man he has gained an established reputation as being thoroughly reliable in all business transactions and the result is that the field from which he secures his patronage is constantly widening. He has always been industrious and enterprising and no man in Macon county more worthily deserves the success that has come to him.

THE H. MUELLER MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

Fifty-three years ago an industrious young German inserted a key in the door of a little frame building on West Main street, near Lincoln Square, and walked into a small room which was to be his gunsmith shop. Hieronymus Mueller was the young man. When he threw open his door that spring morning in 1857 he took the first step toward the establishment of the H. Mueller Manufacturing Company, whose modern plant now faces Cerro Cordo street between North Edward and North Monroe streets, and whose warning whistle daily calls seven hundred and fifty Decatur citizens to their work. Briefly that recites the history of the H. Mueller Manufacturing Company. It is a bare statement of an unadorned fact. It is known personally to all the older residents of Decatur whose intimate knowledge of the company's substantial progress does not lessen their wonder at the results attained.

Between the opening of the little gunsmith shop and the building of the Mueller business of today there is the detail of steady progression interwoven with every step of Decatur's forward movement. From a frame gunsmith shop to the biggest industrial enterprise in the city and the largest manufacturers in the line of water, plumbing and gas brass goods in the United States was a long journey and a hard one. It was not all along the primrose path. There were briar patches to pass which left their scars. There were obstacles that would have daunted a less persistent and determined man than Hieronymus Mueller. There were influences that would have turned many men aside. There were rebuffs and disappointments that would have disheartened them. But these were the fires which burned out the dross and left the pure metal of determination and aggressiveness in Mr. Mueller's character. They whetted his appetite to win the goal of success which he did before his death, March 1, 1900, although denied the full enjoyment of the fruits of his labor. Mr. Mueller laid the foundation of the business of today. His sons have built the superstructure. When Mr. Mueller opened his little gunsmith shop in 1857 he had no idea of where that step was to lead to in the commercial world. His one purpose was to win a livelihood for himself and family through his efforts as an expert gunsmith and mechanician. But he was not content to stand still or to follow a beaten path. He was an expansionist, who seized every opportunity to extend his business and earning capacity. The year 1858 found his shop in the 100 block on North Water street, a few doors north of the Millikin Bank, and in 1859 he moved to a frame building on East Main street which occupied the site of the Powers block. He remained there until 1872, his business gradually increasing with the growth of the town. Decatur at the time was beginning to merge from the chrysalis state of a country village to the more attractive form of a town. The building of the water-works plant at its present site in 1871 opened the door for substantial advancement. Prior to this there had been no plumbing shops in Decatur. The necessity created by the water-works for a business of this character was quickly grasped by Mr. Mueller. He added plumbing to his gunsmith trade and was appointed by Mayor Martin Ferstmeyer as city tapper. The work consisted of making all service connections to the city mains. A continual growth of the business enabled Mr. Mueller in 1872 to erect a two story brick building at the corner of East Main and State streets at the rear of the Millikin Bank. That was the first big step. The next was the invention that year of the Mueller water tapping machine, a device with which service cocks were inserted in water mains without shutting off the pressure and without the loss of water. These were manufactured in a small way but limitations of room, machinery and capital made profitable production extremely difficult.

The invention of the Mueller water pressure regulator followed, and looking ahead Mr. Mueller saw great possibilities as a manufacturer of water-works supplies. He began realizing his hopes in 1885 when he opened a small brass foundry and put Mueller corporation cocks on the market. The gun business was enlarged that year and established as a separate enterprise at 138 Merchant street, in 1892 removing to 134 East Prairie street. Henry, Philip, Fred and Robert Mueller were admitted to partnership in 1886 and a year later the plumbing branch was moved to 249 East Main street, in order to make more room

for the manufacturing end of the business which was then beginning to show symptoms of future large development. In 1890 Adolph Mueller was taken into the partnership. The growth of the plumbing business resulted in the organization of the Decatur Plumbing & Heating Company in 1891, and the erection of the Mueller building at 257 North Main street. This company and the gun and sporting goods house developed successfully but the growth of the manufacturing business was slower. Fighting for a foothold, with limited capital and facilities, in a field already occupied by older and wealthier competitors, called for arduous work and tenacity of purpose. But Hieronymus Mueller was inured to the former and possessed the latter, and was strengthened by the youth and ambition of his sons whose acquisition of and familiarity with modern business methods proved a tower of strength in winning financial and commercial success.

The turning point which led to the broad battlefield of national commercialism was reached in 1893, when the Mueller Manufacturing Company was organized with a capital stock of sixty-eight thousand dollars. Two years later a two-story factory building was erected at the corner of College and Cerro Gordo streets. Oscar B. Mueller, the youngest of the sons, was admitted as a partner February 1, 1896, and from that time on Mr. Mueller and his sons concentrated their energies and abilities upon the development of the manufacturing business. In order to do this the gun store and sporting goods house and the plumbing business were sold, the former in 1896 and the latter in 1897. Gas and plumbing goods were added to the line, salesmen were placed on the road and the company at once began doing a lucrative business. Additions and new buildings followed rapidly and in a little more than five years the plant was completed almost as it stands today. In 1905 Oscar B. Mueller went to New York city as manager of the eastern division located at 254 Canal street. A Chicago branch was opened at 48 Dearborn street in 1908 and removed to 37 Dearborn street in 1909. The company's plant now covers more than two city blocks. The original two-story structure is now three stories and is equipped with the latest types of machinery for the rapid production of goods. There is a large brass foundry, a three story warehouse and shipping department and a power plant for the development of electric light and power, a galvanizing department, enameling department and numerous lesser buildings necessary for the conduct of the business. An addition is being made at the present time to the power plant. The number of persons in the employ of the company and drawing wages in Decatur is now eight hundred and twenty and the weekly payroll is approximately ten thousand dollars. The total of employes in Decatur, New York and Chicago is nine hundred. The growth and progress of the company is forcibly illustrated by the increase in the local payroll during the past ten years: 1901, $130,725.10; 1902, $199,202.14; 1903, $239,106.56; 1904, $256,441.65; 1905, $332,784.04; 1906, $342,784.94; 1907, $359,694.57; 1908, $411,000.00; 1909, $466,400.00; 1910, $520,000.00. Twenty-seven traveling salesmen are in the service of the company and regularly visit all the important cities and towns in the United States. A noteworthy feature of the policy of the H. Mueller Manufacturing Company is its attitude toward its employes. Faithful, continuous service is rewarded in addition to a regular annual increase

in wages. At a picnic held at Mechanicsburg, Illinois, September 7, 1907, in celebration of the company's golden anniversary, seven employes who had been with the company twenty years or more were each presented with five hundred dollars as an appreciation of their faithfulness. Six of these men are still found at their daily tasks. The company does an annual business approximating two million dollars at the present time. There are no territorial restrictions—the world at large is its field. Traveling salesmen visit every important center in the United States and the export trade has reached very satisfactory proportions. Orders are received from nearly every country on the globe and the name Mueller is known wherever water, plumbing and gas goods are used.

The last fifteen years of the company's history, from 1895 to the present time, is the most fascinating because of the rapid development which has made it Decatur's largest industry. But the real story of success is found in the formative period from 1857 to 1895, the thirty-eight years in which Hieronymus Mueller slowly builded the foundation of a business, grappling and mastering every obstacle as it presented itself, meeting adversity with a stout heart and accepting each success as a just reward. He put more than mere material in his work. He put qualities there—qualities that made a firm foundation. Persistence, honesty in work and material and square dealing which was a tenet of his faith long before it became a popular political catch-phrase to arouse people from the lethargy of dishonest and tricky practices in daily life—these were qualities he infused in his business conduct. He won the confidence of his fellowmen and his workmen. This confidence was shown to a marked degree following the general business depression that engulfed the company upon the very heels of the erection of the new factory. It was the crucial period that threatened the demolition of a life's effort. Hampered for money which sought its hiding place during the panic, he called his workmen together and plainly told them the danger he faced. He asked them to draw temporarily as little wages as possible and to keep all departments employed would mean shorter hours of work. There was hearty acquiescence in the plan and the financial abyss was safely bridged.

The important position which the company has attained, both locally and in the ranks of American brass goods manufacturers has not, therefore, been a mere accident; neither has it been the outcome of luck. It has been the logical result of opening the door when opportunity knocked, of taking advantage of the fortuitous circumstances that arose, of unremitting industry and close attention to business. All these coupled with an understanding of the requirements of the trade and a policy closely adhered to, of making goods of unquestioned quality, have been the predominating potent factors which have guided the company into channels of success.

The most valuable asset of Hieronymus Mueller was his six loyal sons who, one by one, joined their father as they came of age and supported his efforts to reach a profitable eminence in the business world. First of these was Henry Mueller, who died August 13, 1910. As a boy he entered the shop and under the guidance of his father acquired the machinist's trade and became an expert in his line and an inventor whose devices have proved of inestimable value to the company in later years. Henry Mueller proved an exceptional man in the

brass goods industry. He was a pioneer in changing from ungainly and unsightly shapes to forms possessing harmonious proportions. His instincts were artistic and found expression in patterns of goods having graceful and pleasing lines, and no man did more than he in revolutionizing this phase of the business. The genius of his inventive skill and artistic conception are found in many goods made by the company. Philip Mueller was the second son to join his father in business and gave his attention largely to plumbing, acquiring a practical knowledge of the trade by actual service and a fine theoretical knowledge by studious application to the principles of hydraulics and sanitation. The other sons as they finished their schooling came in on the business and office side, so that within the family there was an excellent and effective organization for the upbuilding of a permanent and large enterprise. All of the sons secured a more or less practical knowledge of the mechanical necessities of the business, a thorough familiarity with the goods and understanding of the needs of the trade. The present officers of the company are: President and treasurer, Adolph Mueller; secretary and assistant treasurer, Robert Mueller; vice president and assistant secretary, Fred B. Mueller; assistant treasurer and general manager of eastern division, O. B. Mueller; and superintendent, Philip Mueller.

The Mueller Company is purely a Decatur institution in every fiber. Its members are Decatur born and bred. We do not believe the history of Decatur offers a parallel case of a company that has reached a similar importance whose entire membership is native born. In another particular the Muller Company enjoys a distinctly individual characteristic. It has never received a subsidy of any kind from Decatur or Decatur citizens. Its success therefore has been wholly due to the efforts of Hieronymus Mueller and his sons and is a splendid example of possible attainment in the industrial world through united effort directed to the accomplishment of a certain purpose.

ADOLPH MUELLER.

Adolph Mueller, president and treasurer of the H. Mueller Manufacturing Company, was born in Decatur on the 8th of May, 1866, a son of Hieronymus and Anna Fredericka Mueller. He was a pupil in the Decatur high school and afterward attended the University of Illinois, where he studied mechanical engineering. Subsequently he pursued a thorough course in a business college and was thus well qualified to enter upon the tasks which have constituted his life work. He became connected with mechanical lines, especially gunsmithing and plumbing, of which he acquired comprehensive practical knowledge. Later he took up bookkeeping and clerical work in connection with his father's business and his advancement in the H. Mueller Manufacturing Company has at length brought him to the position of president and treasurer. In this enterprise he is associated with his brothers, the firm constituting one of the strongest business combinations of central Illinois. Moreover, he is a director of the Millikin National Bank of Decatur. His discrimination is keen, his judgment sound and his deductions practical as manifest in the results which follow plans of his making.

On the 14th of June, 1893, Mr. Mueller was married in Decatur to Miss Minnie Bachman and to them have been born three children: William Everett and Charlotte A., who are still living; and Charles Phillip, who died at the age of three years. The family attend the Christian Science church and Mr. Mueller is a Mason and a member of the Decatur and Country Clubs. He is serving as a member of the board of the James Millikin University and is a member of the University Club and is deeply interested in all measures and movements for the educational, material, social and moral progress of the community. His political indorsement is given to the republican party but the honors and emoluments of office have never had attraction for him. One of his strong personal characteristics is his fairness in dealing with men and his policy of a square deal in all manufacturing and business transactions. He never deviates from that which his judgment sanctions as right between man and his fellowmen and he has thereby gained an unsullied reputation for commercial integrity.

HENRY MUELLER.

Henry Mueller, vice president of the H. Mueller Manufacturing Company, occupied a prominent position in Decatur not alone by reason of his active connection with one of the most important industrial interests of the city but also by reason of the social nature that endeared him to many friends. He was born at Freeport, Illinois, March 31, 1858, and was but a child when his parents removed to Decatur, where he pursued his education in the public schools. His father established a gunsmith shop here and as the boy grew in years and experience his ability was forcibly felt in this industry and still later more strongly in the Decatur Plumbing & Heating Company, the first of the Mueller enterprises to be of interstate importance. At the time when the Mueller Manufacturing Company was organized Henry Mueller, partly because of the fact that he was the eldest child and also on account of his ability, acted as counsellor to his father and from that day was given charge of the designing of the various supplies made by the company. The masterly hand of the mechanical genius controlled by a seemingly untiring brain added to the merit of the firm's products which were thus kept at the front of the plumbing trade. Henry Mueller was the inventor of various new sundries for the plumbing trade and for the improvement of old patterns. One who knew him said: "Not only was he a great mechanic, he was an artist. He was perhaps the first man in this country to give beauty to design and pleasing effect to his particular line of manufactured articles. Anything out of harmony to the eye grated upon his sensitive nature. He was most at home when with pencil in hand he was giving beauty and harmony of effect to his design. The one ambition of his business life was to bring the products of his factory as nearly as possible to perfection. To this end he spared neither time nor labor. It was not a matter of making money with him; indeed, he often sacrificed money for the accomplishment of character; with him a careless, slip-shod piece of work, an ugly design, were impossible to his nature." In the plumbing world the word

"Mueller" means perfection and completeness and to the knowing the name of "Henry Mueller" appeared behind the success that attended the marketing of the Mueller products.

The Decatur Herald said of Henry Mueller; "With all his mechanical ability and his untiring efforts to produce new ideas he was a 'big' man—he had big ideas of life and of people. As he was a kind father and affectionate husband, so was he a staunch friend and companion. Notwithstanding the fact that he indirectly governed the mechancial efforts of seven hundred men of all nationalities and temperament, he controlled them with kindness and yet firmness. He had the happy faculty of administering a rebuke or criticism in a way in which the sting of error was removed and in its stead an element of interest in the recipent of such correction was constantly evidenced. For this reason more than any other those under him knew him and liked him and with him a trip through the immense factory was a pleasure. He liked to mingle with the men. From them he secured helpful hints in the design of goods and to them he always gave credit for their suggestions. Outside the factory he appeared in another light, and seemingly another man. Naturally a lover of life and nature, he spent all of his available time in the open, either touring the country in his automobile or camping with a small party of friends in the north. He fitted into such camping parties as the finest finished keystone to the arch. Because of his versatility his companionship was constantly sought by business men of the city who were wont to lose themselves in the northern summer resorts for recreation. His rare judgment gave him the position of counsellor to his associates in business and also to his most intimate business friends. He exhibited a keen interest in municipal affairs and was always found in the front ranks of public-spirited citizens seeking to better the welfare of Decatur's people and to expand the commercial importance of the city. Despite his many business connections he found ample time to read and he was considered one of the best read men in the city. His craving for literature was directed more to things mechanical and scientific than to history and fiction, although he accumulated much of both."

Mr. Mueller was married and left a wife and one daughter, and a little daughter two years of age passed away a short time before the death of the father. He was most devoted to his family and his thought always seemed to be for the care and comfort of those of his own household. He gave careful personal supervision to the beautifying of his dwelling place which was dear to him because it sheltered those he loved. The most fraternal relations also existed between himself and his brothers and he was largely an ideal employer, taking a personal interest in the men who served him and ready at all times to aid them with suggestions of worth or word of encouragement. Death came to him suddenly and one of his last acts was the expression of love for his wife. It was her birthday anniversary and, rising early, he went out to purchase a bouquet that the flowers might adorn the table when she arose. One who knew him long said of him: "Henry Mueller was one of the most quiet and unassuming prominent business men in Decatur. With the consciousness of a man of extraordinary skill and ability in mechanics, he went forward in his onward progress and prosperity. Mr. Mueller was exceedingly careful of the feelings

and rights of others. On all matters of doubt he gave others the benefit of it. There was an example of industry and untiring devotion to every detail in his work. He did nothing slip-shod. The master hand of his skill impressed everything with painstaking perfection and finish. As a citizen he was a model. Always on the side of every good movement and work for the upbuilding of the city, he studied public utilities and the advancement of everything that made them better. His life was unblemished and his character pure and true. His soul looked for and saw the best in others. His intentions were honorable and his motives good. He was a friend indeed. Mr. Mueller was a loving and devoted man to his family. Everything in his power was afforded them for their comfort and happiness. He was the unalterable friend and well wisher of the men who worked in the factory. He never forgot the rights of those who labor. In all matters for the betterment of their condition he was their champion. In the death of Henry Mueller the city of Decatur has sustained a great loss. Few men have greater love for mankind than he had. In this hour of sorrow may He who alone can give true consolation comfort the widow, the mother, the brothers and sister is the prayer of an old friend."

ROBERT MUELLER.

Robert Mueller, secretary and assistant treasurer of the H. Mueller Manufacturing Company, was born in Decatur, March 27, 1864, and in the acquirement of his education attended the ward and high schools. After his school days were over he entered his father's office and has since been identified with the business of the Mueller Manufacturing Company. Like his brothers, he received thorough practical training in that line so that his broad experience has well qualified him to become a factor in the management and control of a continuously growing and important enterprise. He is also interested in the Decatur Fountain Company and other business concerns.

On the 21st of October, 1896, was celebrated the marriage of Robert Mueller and Miss Addie Ebert and unto them has been born a son, Ebert Mueller. As a young man Robert Mueller was identified with Company H of the Fifth Regiment of the Illinois National Guard and was very enthusiastic in military matters. He is now active in the promotion of the interests of the Decatur Chamber of Commerce and has served as one of its directors since its inception. His political views are in accord with the principles of the republican party. The Masonic fraternity finds in him an exemplary representative, the Presbyterian church a faithful and loyal member, and he is a popular representative of the Decatur, the Country and the Decatur Fishing Clubs, associations which indicate much of the nature of his recreation. He is also a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

FRED B. MUELLER.

Fred B. Mueller, assistant secretary of the H. Mueller Manufacturing Company and son of Hieronymus and Anna Fredericka Mueller, was born in Decatur, June 4, 1862. At the usual age he entered the public schools and passed through consecutive grades until he became a high school student.

Later he joined his father in business and assumed the management of the Mueller gun store and sporting goods house when it was established on Merchant street in 1885. He remained there as manager until the business was sold in 1897, when he returned to the company and has since acted as field manager of salesman. His official connection is that of assistant secretary. The department under his control is well organized and in its management he is constantly extending the scope of his activities.

In his political views Mr. Mueller is a republican but like his brothers has preferred to concentrate his energies upon business affairs rather than devote his time to political work and attempt to gain office. In matters of citizenship, however, he is loyal and his aid and influence are supporting elements in many progressive fields.

OSCAR B. MUELLER.

Oscar B. Mueller, assistant treasurer and general manager of the eastern division of the H. Mueller Manufacturing Company, was born on the 25th of March, 1871, in Decatur, and after becoming a high-school student in this city continued his education in the University of Illinois. He was identified with the producing end of the Mueller Manufacturing Company and brought forth a number of inventions that have proven valuable to the company. Later he was admitted to the business and was in charge of the plumbing and waterworks goods display at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis. He then went to New York to take charge of the eastern office and is now assistant treasurer of the company and manager of the eastern branch, his home being in New Rochelle, New York. He also has other important business interests, being president of the Rochelle Heights Association, which consists of two hundred and forty property owners, the property being located in a private park. He is likewise a director of the Leader Iron Works of Decatur.

On the 18th of June, 1895, in his native city, Oscar B. Mueller was married to Miss Beatrice A. Wetzel and they now have two children, Bernhardt Frederick and Beatrice Florence. Mr. Mueller is connected with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Although not a resident of Decatur at the present time, he is well known in this city and has a circle of friends almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintance.

PHILIP MUELLER.

Philip Mueller, whose connection with the Mueller, whose connection with the Mueller Manufacturing Company aside from being a stockholder is that of superintendent, was born in Decatur, October 16, 1860, and at the usual age entered the public schools, pursuing his studies through consecutive grades of the ward schools. He made his initial step in the business world as an apprentice in gas fitting and installing engines and afterward learned plumbing and water and steam fitting. He was admitted to a partnership by his father in 1886 and has since been an active factor in the condnct of the business of the Mueller

Manufacturing Company, in which connection he has invented a number of articles now manufactured by the company. His thorough mechanical training well qualifies him for the position of superintendent, in which office he has entire charge of the manufacturing interests of the house.

On the 22d of May, 1883, Mr. Muller was married to Miss Mary E. Shorb, and their children are: Clara, the wife of Fred Kaiser; Robert; Leda; Phyllis, the wife of Delos Cozad; Lucien; Clarence; and Frank. Mr. Mueller was a member of Company H, Fifth Regiment Illinois National Guard, when the company was first organized. He has been identified with several fraternal, social and scientific societies, holding membership with the Odd Fellows, the Decatur Turnverein, the Elks, Decatur Club, Decatur Country Club, American Society of Inspectors of Plumbing and Sanitary Engineers and American Brass Founders Association.

JOHN P. HOLMES.

John P. Holmes, the fortunate owner of two hundred and eighty acres of valuable farm land in Harristown township, Macon county, was born near Concord in Tippecanoe county, Indiana, August 6, 1853. He is a son of Archibald and Margaret (Cann) Holmes, the former born in Hamilton county, Ohio, in 1829, and the latter in Virginia, May 30, 1829. Both removed to Indiana in childhood with the respective parents and were there married, coming to Macon county, Illinois, in the spring of 1864. Mr. Holmes had visited Macon county in 1863 and purchased a tract of eighty acres of land on section 9, Harristown township, where he established the family homestead, the farm containing a three room house, in which the family lived for a number of years. He was an industrious farmer and added forty acres to the farm, developing the land until it became highly productive. The father was called from earthly scenes in 1874, leaving a widow and six children, the latter being: Elizabeth, now Mrs. Wilson Bowers, of Mount Hope, Kansas, the mother now making her home with this daughter; John P., our subject; Joseph and Charles, both of Peoria; Serena, now Mrs. Baker, of Mount Hope, Kansas; and Edward, of Peoria.

John P. Holmes grew to manhood upon the farm and received his early education in the district schools, entering Eureka College at eighteen years of age and there continuing his studies for two years. Returning home, he purchased an interest in a store at Harristown and was in business for several years under the title of Peck & Holmes. Although he succeeded well as a merchant, he felt strongly attracted to agricultural pursuits and, selling out his interest in the store, he turned his attention to farming, having already purchased the interests of the other heirs in the home place. In 1882 Mr. Holmes bought eighty acres of land in the same township at fifty dollars per acre, the highest price that had up to that time been paid in the township. Neighbors laughed at his supposed extravagance but time has demonstrated the wisdom of Mr. Holmes' judgment. In 1885 he offered fifty dollars for another tract of eighty acres in the same neighborhood and the following spring purchased it at forty-five dollars

per acre. This land is now worth two hundred and fifty dollars per acre. In 1879 Mr. Holmes built a new residence, which he remodeled in 1907, putting in modern hot water heating appliances and making other improvements, so that his residence is now one of the handsomest and best appointed buildings in the neighborhood. His farm is provided with large barns and with a complete equipment of smaller buildings, being in many respects one of the model establishments of the county and a good index of the character of its owner. In connection with general farming, he has devoted considerable attention to the handling and breeding of live stock. In 1881 he purchased and brought to Macon county the first Hereford cattle and continued in the breeding of the same for a number of years with good results in a financial way. For the last twenty-five years he has bought and shipped over six hundred carloads of live stock to Chicago and eastern markets.

On April 23, 1884, Mr. Holmes was united in marriage in Chicago to Miss Clara Reynolds, who was born on a farm in Moultrie county, Illinois, about 1862, a daughter of C. F. and Eveline (Archer) Reynolds. Mrs. Holmes departed this life February 28, 1903, leaving two children: Gertrude, now Mrs. Richard Daly, of Harristown township; and Floyd, at home. On July 2, 1907, Mr. Holmes was again married, the lady of his choice being Miss Edith Eyman, a daughter of J. M. and Malissa (Fuller) Eyman, of Harristown township.

Mr. Holmes was reared a democrat and cast his first presidential ballot for Rutherford B. Hayes in 1876, but he has since become a stanch republican. He has never aspired to political honors, as his interest has been largely taken up with his own private affairs. He is a valued member of the Christian church and a firm believer in the authority of the Bible and has many friends in Macon county, who admire him not only for his success as a farmer but on account of his excellent personal qualities.

ANDREW H. MILLS.

Andrew H. Mills, who has been a successful attorney of Decatur for three decades, is the senior member of the firm of Mills Brothers, one of the leading law concerns of the city. His birth occurred on a farm in Putnam county, Illinois, on the 6th of October, 1851, his parents being Eli R. and Elizabeth (Kimber) Mills, who were natives of Fayette county, Pennsylvania, and were married in Brownsville, that state. The father's natal year was 1809. During his active business career he acted as captain on a river steamboat which plied between Pittsburg and New Orleans and occasionally made the trip up the Illinois river to Peru. In his early manhood he arrived in Illinois and in Putnam county, this state, he acquired over one thousand acres of valuable land, his farm being situated near Magnolia. In connection with his duties as a steamboat captain he also supervised the operation of this property. Unto him and his wife were born the following children: Susan, the wife of R. N. West, of Rocky Ford, Colorado; Joseph and Thomas, who are deceased; Herman, who

died in infancy; Sarah, the wife of Fred M. Cox, of Decatur; Henry C., county judge of Putnam county, Illinois; Andrew H., of this review; Isaac R., who has passed away; and Eli R., who died in infancy.

Andrew H. Mills attended the district schools until 1870, when he entered Lincoln University at Lincoln, Illinois, completing the classical course in June, 1875. Subsequently he acted as a tutor in the university for two years, at the same time pursuing a post-graduate course. During the next three years he taught in the Waverly graded schools at Waverly, Illinois, reading law in the meantime. In July, 1880, he came to Decatur and read law in the office of Clokey & Mills. The following June the firm of Mills Brothers was organized, the partners being Isaac R. Mills and his brother, Andrew H. This relationship was maintained until the 3d of July, 1904, when the senior partner was killed in a wreck on the Wabash Railway.

His son, Walter H. Mills, took his father's place in the firm of Mills Brothers, which has been continuously and successfully engaged in the general practice of law to the present time, having offices in the Millikin Bank building. The partners enjoy an enviable reputation as leading attorneys of Decatur and are accorded an extensive and important clientage. Much of the success which has attended Andrew H. Mills in his professional career is undoubtedly due to the fact that in no instance will he permit himself to go into court with a case unless he has absolute confidence in the justice of his client's cause. Basing his efforts on this principle, from which there are far too many lapses in professional ranks, it naturally follows that he seldom loses a case in whose support he is enlisted. He owns some land in Putnam county, Illinois, and also some in Shelby county. His home is at No. 356 West Decatur street, where he owns a comfortable residence.

On the 2d of January, 1877, Mr. Mills was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth E. Bell, of Lincoln, Illinois, a daughter of Rev. William C. and Sarah A. (Doss) Bell, who were natives of Illinois and Kentucky respectively. The father is deceased but the mother still survives, making her home with our subject. Mrs. Mills was a classmate of her future husband in the university at Lincoln, the two young people pursuing the classical and master's courses together. Later she assisted him as teacher in the schools at Waverly. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Mills have been born five children. Ralph G., a medical missionary in Kangkai City, Korea, is to be transferred to the Severance Hospital at Seoul, where he will have charge of the department of pathology. Judith B. is the wife of Keach Bone, of Petersburg, Illinois. Helen E. and Harold E., twins, are at home. Andrew Hubert is the youngest member of the family.

Mr. Mills is a republican in politics and since attaining his majority has taken an active part in every campaign as a local speaker and otherwise. Both he and his wife are valued members of the First Presbyterian church, in the work of which they are actively and helpfully interested. Mr. Mills was superintendent of the Sunday school for eighteen years and is now teacher of the Sisterhood bible class of one hundred and ten members. He is now and for the past eight years has been chairman of the executive committee of the Illinois Sunday School Association and for a similar period has acted as the Illi-

nois member of the International Sunday School Association. As the result of his deep interest in Sunday school affairs he has become keenly alive to the fact that the liquor traffic is a menace to the future welfare of our youth and takes an aggressive stand on the side of temperance, doing everything in his power to promote those measures and movements which tend to uplift and benefit the race.

ISAAC R. MILLS.

Isaac R. Mills, whose demise occurred on the 3d of July, 1904, was engaged in the practice of law at Decatur for a quarter of a century. His birth occurred on a farm in Putnam county, Illinois, his natal day being September 5, 1853. He supplemented his preliminary education by a course of study in the university at Lincoln, being graduated from that institution in 1875. Subsequently he made his way to Chicago, Illinois, there reading law in the office of Dent & Black. In the fall of 1879 he came to Decatur and formed a partnership with J. M. Clokey for the practice of law, remaining with that gentleman until June, 1881, when he organized the firm of Mills Brothers in association with his brother, Andrew H. Mills. He was elected city attorney in 1882 and served in that capacity for three terms, being twice reelected. On the 1st of June, 1888, he was appointed states attorney and in the fall of that year was elected to the office. Twice he was honored by reelection, holding the office altogether for twelve years and five months. In May, 1901, he was appointed collector of internal revenue for the eighth district of Illinois. His worth as a lawyer was acknowledged by a large clientage and in each of the public offices to which he was called he proved a most faithful and efficient incumbent. He passed away on the 3d of July, 1904, being killed in a wreck which occurred on the Wabash Railway near Litchfield.

Mr. Mills was married twice. In September, 1878, he wedded Miss Mattie A. Mahannah, her father being Stephen Mahannah, an agriculturist of Macon county. By this union there were four children, namely: Walter H., who succeeded his father in the firm of Mills Brothers; Mary E., who is now the wife of Edward A. Purcell, of Taylorville, Illinois; Ida M., the wife of Don R. Lehman, of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Gertrude A., of Decatur. The wife and mother was called to her final rest in February, 1889, and in March, 1891, Mr. Mills was again married, his second union being with Mary Hackenberg, of Christian county, Illinois. The two children of this marriage, Jennie H. and Elinor R., reside with their mother at No. 1024 Lincoln avenue. Mr. Mills was a Knight Templar Mason, while his religious faith was indicated by his membership in the Presbyterian church, to which his widow also belongs.

STOUFFER BROTHERS.

The firm of Stouffer Brothers, contractors of Decatur, needs no introduction to the readers of this volume. It consists of George A., Charles W. and David E. Stouffer, sons of Elias Stouffer, who was born in Hagerstown, Maryland, January 12, 1832, his parents being George and Elizabeth (Welty) Stouf-

fer, who were married about 1824. Both the Stouffer and Welty families were among the early German settlers of this country. Elias Stouffer was fourteen years of age when brought by his parents to the middle west in 1846, the journey being made mostly by team. In the family were thirteen children and they located on a farm in Ogle county, Illinois, where they became quite successful. Later four sons and four daughters removed to Marshall county, Iowa, where one son and two daughters still reside. Both the father and the grandfather of David E. Stouffer were self-educated men and, although of German descent, the language was not spoken in their home but Elias Stouffer learned to read, write and speak German through his own efforts. Leaving the home farm in Ogle county at the age of twenty-one years, he learned the carpenter's trade and in 1864 came to Macon, where he became a successful contractor, erecting many of the buildings in the southern part of the county.

In October, 1865, was celebrated the marriage of Elias Stouffer and Miss Mary L. Nugent in Decatur, of which city she is now a resident. She was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, on the 20th of March, 1839, her parents, William and Sarah J. (Stone) Nugent, having removed to the Buckeye state from Pennsylvania at an early day. Her father was a Methodist minister and also engaged in farming to some extent. Her mother was the daughter of an Englishman, born in London. Shortly after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Stouffer built a residence in Macon and there they reared their family, consisting of four sons and one daughter. William H., born December 31, 1867, is now superintendent of the Decatur Fountain Company. He married Miss Frances L. Kraiger, of Decatur, and they have five children, Ernest, Ralph, Helen, Grace and Lloyd. George A., born August 1, 1869, married Miss Harriet E. Ward, of Newburgh, New York, June 14, 1905, and they have two sons, George Esmond and Robert Lee. Charles W., born July 19, 1871, was married May 6, 1903, to Mabel G. Brant and their children are Mary Elizabeth and Dorothy Grace. David E. was born November 5, 1875. Minnie E., the only daughter, resides with her mother in Decatur. She began teaching school at the age of sixteen and successfully followed that profession for eight years.

In January, 1897, Elias Stouffer, accompanied by his wife, daughter and two youngest sons, removed to Nashville, Tennessee, where his death occurred on the 30th of April of that year. Shortly afterward the family returned to Decatur and the mother, daughter and youngest son, David E., now reside together, while the married sons have homes of their own. There is a strong family attachment between them and their business affairs are carried on with the utmost harmony.

All of the children were born and reared in Macon and were educated in the public schools. The brothers are all practical business men and shortly after their return from Nashville, Tennessee, George A., Charles W. and David E. formed a partnership as general contractors, the youngest brother looking after the architectural end of the work. The sister has also become interested in the business, having charge of the clerical and office work. David E. is now vice president of what has become known as the Decatur Fountain Company, while his eldest brother, William, is superintendent. This company was established in 1906 and the business has proved a profitable undertaking, their

trade increasing continually. The contracting business is still carried on with success and the firm has been accorded much important work in the field of building operations in Decatur.

The father was a prohibitionist in politics, stanchly advocating the temperance cause. His sons, however, favor the democratic ticket but usually vote more for principle than party. All of the family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and their influence is ever found on the side of right, reform, progress and improvement.

LOWELL A. SMITH.

Lowell A. Smith, extensively engaged in farming in Milam township, owning and occupying a tract of three hundred and ninety acres of land on sections 27, 33 and 34, is a worthy representative of one of the old and prominent farmers of this part of the state, his father being E. O. Smith, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. He was born in Decatur, Illinois, November 27, 1861, and following the removal of the family to California he pursued his education in the public and high schools of San Jose, and also attended a business college in that place. Subsequently he was actively associated with his father in the development and cultivation of a fruit ranch in California until 1882, when he returned to Illinois, his father giving him one hundred and sixty acres of the farm upon which he now resides. On the division of his father's estate he also inherited eighty acres more and to this he has added by purchase a tract of one hundred and fifty acres. His wife inherited eighty acres from her father's estate, so that their holdings comprise a total of four hundred and seventy acres in Macon county, but this does not represent the aggregate of Mr. Smith's property, for he is also owner of thirteen hundred acres in Texas. He has resided upon his farm in Macon county continuously since 1884 and is engaged in the cultivation of grain and the raising of stock, making a specialty of Morgan horses. Both branches of his business have proven profitable and he has a splendidly improved farm on which he erected his present modern and beautiful residence in 1898. In the rear stand good barns and outbuildings and everything about the place indicates his careful supervision and progressive methods.

In February, 1884, Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Miss Frances Watson, a daughter of the Rev. Dudley G. Watson, of Christian county, Illinois, and unto them were born two sons: Lloyd L., whose birth occurred February 17, 1885; and Forest E., who was born February 1, 1887. The brothers are now engaged in farming in Montana on about one thousand acres of land. The wife and mother passed away October 23, 1887, and on the 12th of March, 1890, Mr. Smith was married again, his second union being with Miss Martha C. Mayes, a daughter of Thomas E. and Isabella (Langton) Mayes, who came to Illinois about 1864, settling in Moultrie county. Mrs. Smith, the eldest of their seven children, was born February 16, 1862. Her father died February 24, 1910, at the age of seventy-two years, and her mother passed away on the 12th of February, 1905, at the age of seventy years. Three children have been

born unto Mr. and Mrs. Smith, but Anna Belle, the eldest, who was born December 2, 1892, died July 21, 1904. Lowell E. was born March 12, 1904, and Genevieve on the 27th of June, 1900.

Mr. Smith is a democrat in his political views and his fellow townsmen, appreciating his worth and ability, have called him to the office of collector, commissioner and school director. He was one of the three commissioners for the Milam drainage district, No. 1, in 1901, which was one of the first regularly organized drainage districts of Macon county. He cooperates in all progressive public measures and is deeply interested in the welfare and upbuilding of town and county. Both he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church of Dalton and at all times their influence is cast on the side of right and progress. While Mr. Smith was fortunate in that he inherited property, in the conduct, development and improvement of his farm he has displayed good business ability, has enhanced its value and has extended its boundaries. He is today one of the extensive and prosperous agriculturists of Macon county.

LEWIS STOOKEY.

Lewis Stookey, a representative of the fourth generation of the family in Illinois, is prominently identified with the farming interests of Macon county and is known as one of its most capable and enterprising citizens. He is the owner of one of the most valuable farms of Harristown township, where he carries on general farming and is also greatly interested in the breeding of shorthorn cattle, his pure-bred herd having a reputation of containing some of the finest specimens of the kind in the state. Mr. Stookey is a practical man and his success has been due to the application of sound judgment in all departments of his business.

He was born in St. Clair county, October 20, 1848, and is a son of Daniel and Caroline (Goodner) Stookey. The father was also born in St. Clair county, the great-grandfather of our subject, Daniel Stookey, locating there in 1802, therefore being one of the very earliest settlers of Illinois. The family came from Virginia, although Daniel Stookey was a native of Maryland, in which state he was born before the Revolutionary war, in March, 1773. His wife, who before her marriage was Barbara Whetstone, was born in Virginia, April 20, 1774. They were married March 16, 1797, and their eldest son, Simon, was born in Virginia, January 6, 1798. This son was the grandfather of our subject and came with the family to St. Clair county. He and his father were pioneer farmers and they took up land from the government in that county, some of which is still in possession of the family. Daniel Stookey, the father, was born March 6, 1820, while his wife was born June 26, 1825, in St. Clair county, and there they were married December 4, 1845. He was a farmer and sawmill owner. In 1855, ten years after his marriage, he sold out and removed to Bloomington, Illinois, becoming interested in the manufacture of Pennock's wheat drills, but the call of the farm drew him back to the soil and after a few years he came to Harristown township, Macon county, where he had acquired forty acres of land and

also owned one hundred and sixty acres in Illini township. Later he became the owner of three hundred and twenty acres where the family homestead is now located. This land at the time of his purchase was wild prairie, with no trees or fences, and upon it there stood a small cabin one and one-half stories high, which was propped up so that it could not be blown down by the wind. The prospect was not very alluring but Daniel Stookey builded wiser perhaps than he knew and became one of the wealthy landowners of the county and one of its most esteemed citizens. To him and his wife there were born seven children: Adaline, who died in childhood; Lewis, our subject; Cornelius, deceased; Daniel W., who married Angie Dunnuck and lives at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, he being a manufacturer of drain tile; Mary Caroline, now the wife of Rev. E. B. Randle, of Springfield; W. James, who died at nineteen years; and Florence H., the wife of S. M. Lutz, of Decatur.

In 1872 Daniel Stookey built a good brick house from brick burned under his own supervision, one of the first houses of the kind in this region. The residence was remodeled in 1906 by Lewis Stookey, a hot water plant and acetylene gas apparatus being installed. In 1909 a commodious porch was added, the building now being one of the most pleasing landmarks in the township. Daniel Stookey was a member of the Baptist church of Decatur, and he was an active supporter of that denomination. He was reared in the democratic party but at the time of the war was a patriotic Union man and from that time forward voted the republican ticket. He served in several minor public offices in the township but he was essentially a man of business and not a seeker for political honors. He was a man of wide influence and worthily did he perform his part in assisting toward the growth and prosperity of the county with which he was long closely identified.

Lewis Stookey was fifteen years of age when his parents took up their residence in Harristown township. He received his early education in the country schools and later became a student at Shurtleff College, where he continued for three years. Returning to the farm, he devoted his attention to its interests, locating for a time on the farm in Illini township, of which he later became owner. In 1893 he removed to the old homestead and he is now the owner of four hundred and forty acres, most of it in the home farm. Mr. Stookey has shown good judgment in his farming operations and the results are to be seen in the orderly arrangement of the buildings, the modern farm appliances and the up-to-date condition of everything about the farm. It is hardly necessary to say that he has been greatly blessed in his operations.

On September 11, 1879, Mr. Stookey was married in Illini township to Miss Leona Childs, a native of Sangamon county, born February 26, 1856, and a daughter of John S. and Catharine (Brown) Childs. Her father was a native of New Jersey and grew to manhood there, coming to Illinois and living for a time at Galena and Springfield, where he followed the occupation of carpentering. His wife was born in Sangamon county, where her father was engaged in farming. He came to Macon county and acquired land in Illini township. He was of English Quaker ancestry. The American ancestors of the family have been traced to James Childs, born in 1697. John S. Childs acquired six hundred and forty acres of land in this county. He was called to his reward May 10, 1905, and his beloved wife departed this life October 23, 1909. He was identified with the dem-

ocratic party for many years but in 1896 he changed his allegiance and voted for Mr. McKinley. He was a man greatly esteemed by his neighbors and held at various times all the important township offices, being for a number of years supervisor and displaying a cool judgment in public and private affairs that always reflected upon him and those with whom he was associated the highest credit.

Three children have blessed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stookey. Marshall C., who was graduated from the school of civil engineering of the University of Illinois in 1907, entered the engineering department of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company at Chicago and later assisted in overseeing construction work on the line. He is now at home assisting his father upon the farm. Helen S. is also a graduate of the University of Illinois, receiving the degree of A. B. in 1904. On June 15, 1907, she was married to Nathan Wilkinson, of Emporia, Kansas, who is an electric engineer and is connected with the Allis-Chalmers Company, now making his headquarters in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson: Helen Jean, born October 29, 1908; and Nathan III, February 13, 1910. The third child of Mr. and Mrs. Stookey was named Annis and departed this life at the age of two years, August 6, 1885.

Mr. Stookey cast his first presidential ballot in 1872 for U. S. Grant for president of the United States and has ever since continued a stanch republican. He has never aspired to political honors but has served with great acceptance as school trustee. He and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Harristown, of which Mr. Stookey is steward and has acted as Sunday school superintendent and in other capacities. He has found in his wife one who has been, indeed, to her husband a helpmeet and to the community a blessing, whose influence for good has increased with the passage of years. As a man of mark, Mr. Stookey's advice is often sought by his friends in business and other affairs and when it is followed the result is almost invariably satisfactory. He has gained recognition as a reliable breeder of live stock and his reputation is not confined to Macon county. He has always had an inclination to agricultural pursuits and to this has been added lifelong habits of application and industry and an integrity which has never been questioned. It is plain that no record of Macon county would be complete without proper mention of the subject of this sketch and his worthy ancestry.

WILLAM A. SHORB.

William A. Shorb, president of the Leader Iron Works, was born in Cerro Gordo, Illinois, June 3, 1871. His parents, William H. and Elizabeth (Zorger) Shorb, were natives of Pennsylvania and, coming to Macon county at an early day, were identified for a time with farming interests. At length the father put aside the work of the fields and, coming to Decatur, was connected with the public life of the city for a number of years. He also engaged in business as a carpenter and contractor and later was superintendent of streets at Decatur for about a decade. He also filled the office of justice of the peace and his

decisions were strictly fair and impartial. As a veteran of the Civil war he was entitled to wear the Grand Army button, for he had served as a first lieutenant in the Fifty-fifth Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers and while with that command was wounded by a shell in a skirmish near Charleston, South Carolina. He belonged to the Decatur Grand Army post and to the Knights of Pythias lodge. His death occurred in the United States hospital at Washington, D. C., and his wife passed away in 1877.

The removal of the family to Decatur during his early boyhood enabled William A. Shorb to pursue his education in the public schools of this city, after which he began learning the plumber's trade and followed it for a number of years. He engaged in the plumbing business in partnership with Oscar Zimmerman for five years, from 1893 until 1898, when he purchased his partner's interest and consolidated with W. C. Field, formerly of the firm of Field & Wilson. Mr. Field had also purchased his partner's interest and the new firm became Field & Shorb. This relationship was maintained for two years as a partnership and then the business was incorporated under the name of the Field & Shorb Company. A retail plumbing business was carried on until January, 1910, and is now continued as a wholesale establishment, selling only to the trade.

In 1903 Mr. Shorb, in company with W. C. Field, purchased the stock and equipment of the Leader Manufacturing Company, which was at that time a very small concern engaged in the manufacture of brickmaking machinery and was located just west of the present Millikin University. They reorganized the business under the name of the Leader Iron Works, placing some of the stock with others and adding largely to the plant equipment for making boilers, tanks, etc. They also continued the brick machine business and a general machine jobbing business. After operating for about two years at that location they removed to the new Chamber of Commerce addition, having been donated a site there, on which they erected suitable buildings, enlarging that portion of the business devoted to the tank industry and concentrating their efforts on pneumatic waterworks systems almost to the exclusion of the other lines in which they had formerly engaged. After about a year in the new location they sold all the patterns and machinery of the brickmaking interest and have since devoted their entire attention to the manufacture and sale of Leader water systems. Their business has grown to be the largest of the kind in the middle west.

Mr. Shorb is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen camp. He also belongs to the Decatur Fishing Club and to the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers. On the 16th of June, 1896, he married Miss Lucille Pearl Myers, of Decatur, and they have a son and daughter, Dorothy Lucille and William Myers. The family are well known socially in the city and their own home is celebrated for its warm-hearted and generous hospitality.

In matters of citizenship Mr. Shorb is progressive and gives earnest support to the men and measures of the republican party, deeming that its principles are essential factors in good government. There has been no esoteric phase in his whole business career, which has been characterized by an orderly progres-

sion that has led him from a humble place to a prominent position among the representatives of industrial and manufacturing interests in Decatur. He has carefully watched his opportunities and, his business powers increasing through the exercise of activity, he is today recognized as a strong and forceful factor in manufacturing circles.

HON. EDWARD O. SMITH.

The name of Hon. Edward O. Smith is written large on the pages of Macon county's history. In him business ability, which brought him substantial success, was evenly balanced with the public spirit that prompted earnest and effective effort in behalf of the general welfare. His labors were an essential element in the upbuilding of this part of the state and, moreover, he aided at one time in shaping the legislation of Illinois, the weight of his influence being cast on the side of reform, improvement and progress.

Mr. Smith was born in Montgomery county, Maryland, on the 15th of April, 1817. His father, the Rev. James Smith, was a native of Virginia and became a distinguished minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, preaching in Baltimore, Philadelphia and other cities. He wedded Rachel Owen, who was born in Montgomery county, Maryland, and both have long since passed away, the former dying in 1825 and the latter a few years later.

Edward O. Smith was the fourth in a family of six children who, thus early left orphans, were reared by their maternal grandmother, Mrs. Rachel Owen, a woman of large heart and great nobility of character. No unusual events occurred to vary the routine of life for Edward O. Smith in his boyhood and youth. Work and play and the duties of the schoolroom occupied his attention, but his educational privileges were somewhat meager. He started out on his own account when a youth of fifteen, making his way to Washington, D. C., where for two years he occupied a clerkship in a store. His salary, however, was very small but the political atmosphere of the place left a deep impress on his mind and aroused his attention and interest in questions which were and have been of vital importance to the nation. General Andrew Jackson was serving for the first term as president and was opposing the United States Bank in a most strenuous way. At that time—1832—a panic was sweeping over the land, the credit system was crumbling to pieces, and the financiers and business men who understood the situation were strongly denouncing the man who occupied the white house. The threatened nullification of the tariff laws of South Carolina and President Jackson's vehement declaration and stamping out of incipient rebellion also made a vivid impress upon the mind of the young man. Calhoun, Clay, Webster and Benton were then at the height of their power and fame and Edwin O. Smith, then of most impressionable age, had his mind strongly turned to political and constitutional questions. The impress thus made was never forgotten and in future bore fruit in all of his subsequent political opinions.

The west, too, was attracting wide attention at that time and he was among those who, crossing the Alleghanies, followed the great highway of western travel to become a feature in the upbuilding of the Mississippi valley. In the autumn of 1834, when seventeen years of age, he struck out over the old National road and across the mountains to Ohio, which was then a frontier state. His worldly possessions were carried in a bundle swung across his shoulder, and his entire cash capital of nineteen dollars was in his pocket. He traveled on foot for five hundred miles until he reached Springfield, Ohio, where he began learning the carpenter's trade under Samuel Price. Suffering from throat trouble, he concluded to see how residence upon the open prairie would affect him, and accordingly again traveled westward, working at his trade for a time in Montezuma, Indiana, and for a year in Terre Haute.

The month of May, 1837, witnessed Mr. Smith's arrival in Decatur, a tiny village with but slight trade connections and of little industrial or commercial importance. He at once became a factor, however, in the upbuilding and improvement of the town. Though but twenty years of age, he at once began the erection of a hotel, a mill and other buildings in what was then a heavily timbered district. He was closely connected with building operations and other business pursuits from the first but he never allowed the search for wealth to dominate his life. He used every leisure moment for reading and study and thus greatly broadened his mind and added to his knowledge until he became recognized as one of the best informed men of the district. He kept in close touch with the questions of vital national interest and was ever able to discuss intelligently the problems that confronted the community. His ability and integrity were soon recognized by the people and he became an important factor in state as well as local affairs. He also went quietly on with his building operations, having unshaken faith in the destiny of the state. As his labors brought him prosperity he purchased and improved land, thus demonstrating his faith in the future of Illinois, and for sixteen years he remained actively in business in Decatur, connected with various enterprises which were proving not only sources of individual prosperity but also elements in the welfare and progress of the community. At a time when such a thing was regarded as a menace to public morals he built a theater and dedicated it to free speech—a dedication that money could not afterward induce him to dishonor. He believed that only through education and the understanding of important questions could the public determine upon the best methods to be followed.

In 1843 Mr. Smith was married to Miss Harriet Krone, a native of Lewisberry, York county, Pennsylvania, born September 11, 1826, and a daughter of David and Ruth (Werley) Krone, who were natives of the Keystone state. In 1839 they removed to Decatur and it was while boarding at the hotel which they conducted that Mr. Smith became acquainted with the lady whom he made his wife. At the time of their marriage Mrs. Smith was but seventeen years of age, yet she proved herself well qualified to take charge of the home and to wisely care for the children that came to them as the years passed. The duties of the household in those days were many. The pioneers depended upon their own labor for nearly everything used in the home. This involved many kinds of work from butchering to the coloring and weaving of cloth. Moreover, the

workmen on the farm and in the shops usually boarded with their employers and the open hospitality of the homes made them frequently visited by political leaders, preachers, pedlars and friends. All this meant a vast amount of work for the wife, but Mrs. Smith patiently and uncomplainingly met the tasks that devolved upon her, looking well to the ways of her own household and doing everything possible to promote her husband's interests. During his absence in California on two different occasions of three years each, she not only had the care of the large family but also of the property and business interests as well. At the same time she was in constant anxiety and suspense regarding the whereabouts of her husband, for in those days communication was no easy matter. She certainly deserves much credit for the part which she played in rearing the family and aiding her husband in accumulating a competence. Moreover, her life was characterized by many acts of kindness and charity and her spirit of friendliness reached out to all.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith became the parents of four sons and six daughters, all of whom reached adult age. Rachel R., the eldest, is the widow of Judge A. J. Gallagher and resides in Los Angeles, California. James D. is living in Napa, California. Lydia A. married Aquilla Tolland and after his death became the wife of George B. McKee, of San Jose, California. M. Ella is the wife of the Rev. S. S. Hebbard, of La Crosse, Wisconsin. Harriett is the wife of Frank Moore, living in San Jose, California. Laura S. is the wife of E. Lester Brown, of Elmwood, Illinois. Edward resides near Moweaqua, Illinois. Lowell A. follows farming near Dalton City. Gertrude first married George W. Waltz, and afterwards married Eliner Hurff of San Jose, California. Thomas C. died in San Jose, California, at the age of twenty-four years. The mother of these children died January 16, 1867. Mr. Smith was again married on the 15th of April, 1869, his second union being with Mrs. Catherine Hillman, of Elmwood, Illinois, and to them was born a daughter, Kathryne, now living with her mother in San Jose, California.

Mr. Smith's interests and activity in political affairs culminated in his election in 1847 to the Illinois constitutional conventon as the representative of Piatt and Macon counties. In 1848 he was the whig candidate for state senator and was elected by a flattering majority. One of his first efforts in the senate was to secure through resolutions of the state legislature a donation from the national government of lands for the construction of the Illinois Central and the Northern Cross (now the Wabash) Railroads. This was successful so far as the former was concerned, and to Mr. Smith belongs the credit of taking the first steps in that great project. Moreover, he was active in securing for Macon county several of her railroads and was an incorporator and original director of one of them. While serving in constitutional convention he was one of the authors of the special provision adopted by a special vote, levying a two mill tax to eliminate the state debt. This proved to be a wise measure for the state bonds, which had fallen to thirty per cent, were soon taken up by eastern capitalists at par.

For the benefit of his health Mr. Smith made a number of overland trips to California, usually taking with him droves of cattle and horses. Such a journey at that time was one of adventure not unmixed with hardships and danger. He first crossed the plains in 1853 and during the few years in which he remained

on the coast he realized liberal profits from his ventures, which he invested in a number of business buildings upon his return to Decatur. There was a general depression in business in 1858 following the panic of the previous year, and he then started on a second trip for California, returning in 1861. The same year he was elected mayor of Decatur and because of the outbreak of the Civil war the duties of the office were unusually important. Many regiments of soldiers were fed at the city's expense and new questions were constantly arising which required prompt attention. During the war he did all in his power as an official to assist the Union cause and likewise made liberal contributions from his own means. He supported Lincoln for reelection but after the war acted with the democratic party, making an exception of General R. J. Oglesby, however, supporting him at every opportunity, for between these two there existed from their first acquaintance in 1837 a warm and intimate friendship in which politics made no breach. Mr. Smith had a wide acquaintance among the distinguished men of the state, including Lincoln, Douglas, Palmer, Turnbull, Logan and Yates. In 1870 he removed to California and for the remaining years of his life resided in San Jose, enjoying the high esteem of many friends. He became a member of the constitutional convention of that state and as in Illinois bore an important part in shaping the organic laws of California. The many positions of public trust which he filled always found him a capable official, loyal to the best interests of the commonwealth, his patriotism and progressive spirit in public affairs being paramount to all else. He was ever a man of broad and liberal views whose opinions were ever based upon a thorough understanding of the subject.

A contemporary biographer has written of him: "No man did more than he in planning and constructing the network of railways to which the thriving city of Decatur largely owes her prosperity. Without the advantages of a higher education in his youth he was a man of rare intelligence, well informed, a reader of good books, thoughtful, with a wide and deep interest in all that concerned the welfare of humanity. He was broad and liberal in all his views, a man who did his own thinking and quietly shaped his own creed, counting truth as of equal authority, come from where it would. He was not only successful in this world's affairs but had an abiding confidence in our continued identity in another world which is closely bound to this, and that bonds of love and friendship formed here are not sundered by death. In his domestic relations Mr. Smith was exceedingly fortunate and happy. Toward his wife and children he was a model of thoughtful affection and generosity. He gave to them with a liberal hand of the wealth that he had accumulated by his toil and enterprise. The strong points of his character were what might be termed 'the heroic type.' He was fearlessly loyal to his convictions of truth and to his sense of duty. In the presence of danger he was unconscious of fear and bore the severest trials with unyielding fortitude. In journeys across thousands of miles of unbroken wilderness, infested by bands of hostile Indians and beset by dangers undreamed of and by privations under which the stoutest hearts were often overcome, his bravery and fortitude saved his own life and that of many others. He threw his strong arm of protection around whomsoever he chanced to meet in need of succor and shared with them his last morsel of food. He made no profession. His life was his creed. His political career was clean and he was known as a man who could

not be corrupted. His influence could not be purchased. However much he might be mistaken he was honest. In the fall of 1889, with his wife and youngest daughter, he carried out the dream of his life. He crossed the Atlantic and made an extended tour of Europe, visiting many of the chief points of interest. His trip included a visit to the Paris Exposition and the world-renowned Passion Play. On his many journeys he was charry of goodbye scenes, preferring to start on a trip across the continent as though he was going to his neighbor's, and it was in pathetic keeping that his departure on the mystic journey was instant and without a parting word. He passed away suddenly of heart disease March 8, 1892, at his home in San Jose, and three days later his remains were interred in Oak Hill cemetery."

JACOB HANES.

Jacob Hanes, at the age of seventy-two years, is living retired in Decatur, although for a long period he was closely and actively associated with farming interests. He was born July 2, 1838, in Clark county, Ohio, a son of Jacob and Margaret (Dix) Hanes, who were also farming people. The father was of English descent, while the mother came of an old Pennsylvania Dutch family. From his old home in 'Adams county, Pennsylvania, Jacob Hanes, Sr., removed to Clark county, Ohio, where he resided to the time of his death, which occurred when he was fifty-five years of age. His wife passed away at the age of eighty years, having long survived him. They were the parents of ten children who reached adult age and reared families of their own. Only four of the number are now living: Jacob; Job, now a resident of Clark county, Ohio, his home being in the vicinity of Springfield; Nancy Eliza; and Malvina, the wife of Walter Rue, who also lives near Springfield, Ohio.

Jacob Hanes pursued his education in the district schools of his native county and was reared to the occupation of farming, which he determined to make his life work. In 1864, therefore, he started out on his own account by becoming the owner of a tract of land in the Buckeye state. In 1866 he removed westward to Macon county, Illinois, settling in Hickory Point township. He made the entire journey by wagon, having four horses, and they were eight days upon the road, traveling by way of Paris, Edgar county, Illinois, to their destination. Mr. Hanes secured a quarter of section 8, township 17, range 2, east, in Hickory Point township, paying four thousand dollars for the property, or twenty-five dollars per acre. The farm was unimproved, but his previous experience and progressive ideas enabled him to rapidly bring about a change in the appearance of his place and to convert it into a valuable property. He was the first in the township to tile his land, using tile that was made by hand. His farm was located between Forsyth and Warrensburg, and after living upon the farm for some time he erected a fine two story brick residence—one of the most attractive country homes of Macon county. He also built a large barn sixty by forty feet and erected other good buildings. When he purchased the place there was upon it a one story frame house unplastered and there was no

flue. There was also a rude barn covered with straw. As soon as possible he made changes in the appearance of his place by erecting modern buildings as well as by cultivating his fields. The barn which he built will hold forty loads of hay. The corn fields according to the last reports yield sixty bushels to the acre; oats, sixty-one bushels; and wheat, thirty-one and one-half bushels. While on the farm in the early days he often swung a cradle, but he lived to see the crude machinery replaced by most modern farm implements, greatly lessening the labor of the agriculturist.

Not only did Mr. Hanes put forth earnest and effective effort to improve and develop his own place but also sought the good and welfare of the community and cooperated in many movements for general benefit. In order to improve the roads he volunteered to build culverts without asking remuneration for his services. Moreover, Mr. Hanes was the first man to do the milking in his township, this task having been previously left to the women of the household, but he felt that they had enough to do in attending to the housework, and the news that he was doing the milking spread soon throughout the community. Other men realized the justice of the attitude which he took on the question and his example was followed not only in Hickory Point township but in many other localities as well. That his step in this direction received the indorsement and commendation of the women upon the farms is a matter not to be doubted. Moreover, it was an indication of the helpful spirit which has always been one of the chief characteristics in the life of Jacob Hanes. As the years passed and he prospered in his undertakings he added to his farm from time to time until he owned over four hundred acres of valuable property but in later years has disposed of much of this to his son, his present holdings embracing one hundred and sixty acres, which is the land that he first purchased, worth then twenty-five dollars per acre, while today it is valued at two hundred dollars per acre.

On the 23d of December, 1863, Mr. Hanes was married to Miss Martha Arthur, a daughter of Joseph G. Arthur and a native of Clark county, Ohio, where the wedding was celebrated. Mrs. Hanes passed away in Decatur, February 9, 1898, amid the deep regret of many friends. Six children were born unto them: Effie, who was born in Ohio and is now the wife of Arthur Flood of Chicago; Arthur, who died in 1906, leaving a widow and four children; Nancy Lillian; Harold, living on a farm in Hickory Point township; Antoinette; and Chester A., on the old home farm. On the 2d of April, 1900, Mr. Hanes was again married, his second union being with Mrs. William Price, a widow, who is a native of Ohio and was formerly a school teacher.

For many years Mr. Hanes was one of the well known, progressive, successful and honored agriculturists of Macon county but in 1891 left his farm to reside in Decatur, Illinois. He is enjoying the fruits of his labors and the congenial companionship of the cultured lady who presides over his home. His work has ever been an element in public progress and in many ways he has contributed to the upbuilding of the county. He aided in the establishment of the Methodist church at Forsyth, filled the office of supervisor for nine years, and while so doing served on the committee on roads and bridges. The cause of education has always found in him a stalwart champion, proven by his effective

service as a member of the school board. Moreover, he is entitled to wear the Grand Army button, for he joined the One Hundred and Fifty-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the Civil war. His life has ever been a useful one, characterized by a spirit of helpfulness and unfaltering fidelity to duty and by reliability in business affairs. His capable management of his farm interests at length brought to him substantial success, enabling him now in the evening of life to live retired and yet have an abundance of this world's goods.

CHARLES W. FREELAND.

Charles W. Freeland, owner of a beautiful farm in Macon county, which he acquired through his own efforts, was born in Coles county, this state, November 17, 1850, a son of David J. and Martha (Sawyer) Freeland. The father was a native of North Carolina, born April 19, 1819, and came to Illinois with his parents in 1836. The family settled in what is now Moultrie county but in 1858 located in Macon county and here David J. Freeland departed this life September 16, 1892. He was an industrious and successful farmer and a man who took a great deal of interest in the welfare of those with whom he was associated. He was a supporter of the republican party and served as justice of the peace, school trustee and collector, performing his duties in such a way as to meet the hearty approval of the community. Mrs. Freeland was a native of Coles county, Illinois, born June 15, 1831, and died August 25, 1900, and a descendant of a Kentucky family. The father of our subject was twice married, his first wife being a Miss Strain, a native of North Carolina, who died in early womanhood, leaving one child. By the second marriage there were ten children, the subject of this review being the second in order of birth.

Charles W. Freeland received his early education in the common schools and later attended Blackburn University of Carlinville, Illinois, where he continued for one year. He taught school for several terms and then became a student in the Illinois Conservatory of Music at Jacksonville and also of the Boston Normal Musical Institute during its session in Buffalo, New York, in 1881. He is the possessor of fine musical talent and for many years has devoted a great deal of attention to musical affairs. Since 1887 he has engaged in farming upon his own account and now owns six hundred acres of land, although originally he started with eighty acres, which was a portion of his father's estate. He is known as one of the large grain raisers of the county.

In 1887 Mr. Freeland was united in marriage to Miss Susan Inman, of Decatur, a daughter of King and Susan Inman. She was born May 28, 1863, and is sixth of a family of seven children. Four children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Freeland: Anton D., born April 1, 1888; Adin J., August 4, 1889; Lubin A., April 30, 1894; and Merlin A., September 15, 1897, all of whom are living at home.

Mr. Freeland is an active supporter of the republican party and has filled a number of official positions, discharging his duties in such a way as to meet the warm approval of the taxpayers. He served as supervisor for five years,

collector two years and as school trustee for about nine years. He has all his life been intimately connected with farming interests and by practical application of his knowledge has attained unusual success in one of the noblest of callings. The fortunate possessor of a fine address and a liberal education, he is known as a man who willingly gives of his means and talents to advance the best interests of his fellowmen. No citizen of Macon county is more highly respected, and he and his estimable wife have many friends, whose regard they have won not only by acts of kindness and hospitality but by the example they have set as public-spirited members of the community.

CHARLES STEWART HANKINS.

Charles Stewart Hankins, a real-estate and investment broker and a business man of enterprising spirit, whose record has been characterized by an orderly progression that has brought him to a prominent position in the business and financial circles of Decatur, was born on the night of December 24, 1856, in Clinton county, Ohio, upon the home farm near the town of Wellington and about three miles from Sabina and a half mile from Reesville. His parents were Enoch and Susan (McFadden) Hankins. The mother, who was descended from the McFadden and Stewart families, both of which were of Scotch-Irish origin, was born in Wheeling, West Virginia, and died at the home of her son Charles at No. 1523 North Water street, Decatur, in December, 1904. Enoch Hankins, the father, was born in Clinton county, Ohio, in 1817, and died on his farm in Macon county, Illinois, in 1866, at the age of forty-nine years. He and his brother, Harvey Hankins, were the original importers of shorthorn cattle, then better known as Durham cattle, from England, which was the native land of their father. In 1862 Enoch Hankins started across the prairies from Ohio to Illinois, driving his graded cattle ahead as he journeyed onward in one of the old prairie schooners. His family, however, traveled in carriages. In the fall of 1862 he arrived in Macon county and the following year took up his abode on what afterward became known as the Adams place in Friends Creek township. Arriving in this county, he bought a half section of partially improved land for twenty-five dollars per acre and also invested in other tracts, paying as low as three dollars per acre for a part of it. In 1864 he settled on the home place but did not live to enjoy this for any extended period, as he passed away in 1866. He was known as the original shorthorn cattle man of Macon county, having brought the breeding stock here.

Charles S. Hankins was the seventh in order of birth in a family of nine children, five sons and four daughters, and was only eight years of age when the family came to Illinois. He pursued his education in the country schools until he reached the age of fifteen, when he put aside his text-books and was afterward identified with farming interests until he reached the age of twenty-five years. His next venture made him a traveling salesman, representing a boot and shoe establishment. He afterward became traveling representative for drugs and stationery sundries, representing the house in central Illinois for four and a half

years. He then returned to Decatur and turned his attention to the real-estate business, at first handling farm lands in southern Illinois but now concentrating his energies entirely upon city property as a real-estate and investment broker. In the meantime, however, he became one of the early owners of the Independent Telephone Company, of which he served as president for six years. In 1907 the business was reorganized and was sold to the Decatur Home Telephone Company. He developed an extensive business when operating in the telephone field and his enterprising spirit gave to the county a system of telephone service unsurpassed in the state. In his business activity Mr. Hankins has always contributed in large and substantial measure to public progress and improvement. He perhaps built more houses in Decatur than any other individual until 1902. He was the owner of the property through which Stewart street was opened in the northern part of the city. His labors have been most discerningly directed and have been not only an element of substantial success for himself but also a factor in the general progress and improvement.

In 1888, in Decatur, Mr. Hankins was united in marriage to Miss Mary B. Gerber, a daughter of Samuel Gerber, a pioneer of Argenta, who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hankins have been born two sons. Orville Gerber, now eighteen years of age, was graduated from the Decatur high school with the class of 1909, and in the fall of that year entered the Illinois State University at Champaign, where he is studying agriculture. Charles Stewart, twelve years his brother's junior, is a bright, promising boy of six, who in September, 1910, began his education in the public schools.

Mr. Hankins is a prominent member of the Knights of Pythias lodge, in which he is a past chancellor, and has also been representative to the Grand Lodge of the state. He is recognized as one of the prominent local leaders of the republican party and his opinions have carried weight in its councils. He never wavers in his allegiance to the party, stanchly advocating all its principles and doing all in his power to promote its success. He has been central committeeman at different times and has represented his party as secretary at the congressional conventions. He has also been a delegate to state and national conventions and is now a member of the republican executive committee of Illinois. In 1897 he was a candidate for mayor of Decatur against B. Z. Coughlin, and in 1905 and 1906 he served as a member of the city council. In the spring following the attainment of his majority, while living upon the farm, he was elected a school director.

A contemporary biographer said of him: "His prominence in business circles comes as a result of capability and his worth is uniformly acknowledged. His social, genial manner has gained for him many friends and he has the regard of young and old, rich and poor. In his business activity in connection with the telephone company and in his real-estate operations he has displayed an initiative spirit and sound judgment that has brought him good returns." He correctly judges his own capacities and powers and therefore makes no false moves. Starting out in life without any vaulting ambition to accomplish something especially great or famous, he has followed the lead of his opportunities, doing as best he could anything that came to hand and seizing legitimate ad-

vantages as they arose. He has never hesitated to take a forward step when the way was open. Fortunate in possessing ability and character that inspire confidence in others, the simple weight of his character and ability has carried him into important relations with large and profitable business interests.

JAMES ROSS HOCKADAY.

The enterprising little town of Oreana finds a worthy representative of its business interests in James Ross Hockaday, who is there carrying on general merchandising. He has always figured prominently in connection with business affairs and has made for himself a creditable position and enviable reputation as an enterprising and successful man. His identification with the commercial interests of Oreana covers a period of more than thirty years, and he has also figured prominently in public affairs, having occupied a position on the county board of supervisors for six years. He has made his home in Macon county since 1868.

His birth occurred in Martins Ferry, Ohio, October 19, 1851, and he was reared to manhood there, the public schools affording him his educational privileges. When a young man he came west and located in Forsyth, Macon county, Illinois, where he became connected with the firm of Day, Sprig & Company, who were engaged in the grain business, operating an elevator, and he continued with the firm for about eighteen years, coming to Oreana as a grain buyer about 1893. He bought out the business here, building an elevator and continuing actively in the grain trade until 1904. He is an excellent judge of grain and in all of his business affairs has met with substantial success, such as follows close application and unremitting energy. In 1904, however, he disposed of his grain business and located upon a farm adjoining Oreana, where he carried on agricultural pursuits for three years. In 1907 he bought a large business house in the town and put in a complete stock of general merchandise, since which time he has conducted the store. In the interim of three years he has built up a good trade and does a profitable business. He is one of the prosperous and well known merchants of Macon county, actuated in all that he does by a spirit of enterprise and determination that never recognizes the possibility of failure. He works on resolutely until he accomplishes what he undertakes, and his energy has made him a forceful factor in commercial circles in his part of the county.

Returning to Ohio, Mr. Hockaday was married at Martins Ferry on the 2d of November, 1882, to Miss Emma R. Sheer, who was born at Ironton, Ohio, and was reared and educated there and in Wheeling, West Virginia, where she attended a private school. Mr. and Mrs. Hockaday became parents of two sons, but both have passed away. Robert, the eldest, died in 1903 at the age of seventeen years, and Frederick Sheer died in 1904 when six years of age.

Mr. Hockaday has erected a fine residence which is heated with furnace and supplied with hot and cold water. It is one of the most attractive and best arranged homes in the village, and, moreover, a spirit of warm-hearted hospitality there prevails.

Politically Mr. Hockaday is a republican. He cast his first presidential vote for General Grant in 1872 and has since given stalwart support to the party, for he believes that its principles are most conducive to good government. His fellow-townsmen recognizing his worth and ability elected and reelected him to the office of supervisor until he had served for six consecutive years on the county board, acting as chairman for one year. He also served on various committees during his term of office and was made chairman of a number of them. He had previously served as justice of the peace and a number of important cases were tried before him. That his decisions were strictly fair and impartial is indicated in the fact that he never had a decision repealed. He has served as delegate to various county and state conventions, and his opinions have long carried weight in the local councils of his party. Mr. Hockaday is well known as a prominent Mason, holding membership in the local lodge, in Decatur Chapter, R. A. M., Decatur Commandery, K. T., and the consistory and the Shrine at Peoria. He became a charter member of Oreana Lodge, K. P., in which he served through the chairs, becoming a chancellor. He has also represented the local organization in the Grand Lodge of the state. In fraternal relations, in political circles, in business life and in social connections James Ross Hockaday is known as a man of high and honorable purpose, true and loyal to every trust reposed in him.

DAVID S. SHELLABARGER.

David S. Shellabarger, president of the National Bank of Decatur, needs no introduction to the readers of this volume. His life history is interwoven with the annals of the city and while he is widely known as an enterprising and successful business man, his interests have by no means been self-centered, but have reached out to those activities which have touched the general interests of society. In his life public spirit has ever constituted an even balance to business enterprise. He has honorably won prosperity and at the same time has made generous division of his means with his fellowmen.

A native of Pennsylvania, Mr. Shellabarger was born on a farm in Cumberland county, July 11, 1837. His parents, David and Catharine (Byerly) Shellabarger, were also natives of the Keystone state and the family was of Swiss descent, while the latter was of German lineage. The family was founded in America by the great-great-grandfather of our subject, who lived near the beautiful city of Lucerne in Switzerland. There is a mountain in that vicinity which was named for the Shellabarger family. The great-grandfather of David S. Shellabarger in the maternal line came from Germany and settled in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. Both families were sturdy farming people. Isaac Shellabarger, the grandfather, was a miller of Pennsylvania and David Shellabarger's father followed the same occupation. An uncle of the name of Isaac Shellabarger came to Macon county in the early '50s. He, too, was a miller by trade but here engaged in the lumber business and afterward in connection with his brother, David Shellabarger, purchased the mill on the Wabash Railway tracks now owned by the American Hominy Company. He had several farms in

Macon county, two of which he entered from the government in 1837. These are still owned by his grandchildren, having remained continuously in the possession of the family. He died in Decatur after a long residence in Macon county, during which period he contributed in substantial measure to the growth and upbuilding of this part of the state.

David Shellabarger, the father of our subject, also arrived in Macon county at an early day and was engaged in the dry goods business in Decatur for a number of years. He also owned a farm in the northeastern part of the county and was a progressive business man who utilized the various opportunities that came to him. His death occurred in Decatur, while his wife passed away in Salina, Kansas. They were the parents of eight children, of whom four are yet living: David S.; Mrs. G. F. Hargus, of Los Angeles, California; Mrs. Kate Black, of Springfield, Illinois; and Mrs. E. A. Hinkle, of Salina, Kansas.

In the country schools of his native county David S. Shellabarger of this review pursued his studies but his opportunities in that direction were very limited. His labor was needed on the farm and education in those days was a secondary consideration. He soon became familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and learned to appraise unfaltering diligence at its true worth. In 1856 he came west by way of Chicago over the Illinois Central Railroad to Decatur, which at that time had no other railway line, the Illinois Central having been completed the year before. He was then a young man of nineteen years, courageous, ambitious and determined. He accepted a position in his uncle's lumber yard as a day laborer, working at a dollar and a quarter per day. He continued for some time in that position and later with J. H. Kaufman & Company, lumber dealers, and on the death of John H. Shellabarger, who was a partner of Mr. Kaufman, he succeeded to his interest in the business, with which he was connected for two years. At the end of that time he disposed of his interest and in 1859 he bought an interest in the mill owned by Hinkle & Condell. After a time he sold out in that connection and purchased a mill on the Wabash tracks in company with his uncle, Isaac Shellabarger. This was afterward known as the Shellabarger Mills and David S. Shellabarger was active in the operation and management of the business until 1903, when he sold to the American Hominy Company. In 1878 he was associated with his brother, J. L. Shellabarger, and J. P. Griswold in the mills which were known as the Shawnee Mills, named for the Shawnee tribe of Indians at Topeka, Kansas, and further extended his business operations in the Sunflower state by building a mill at Wichita, Kansas, in 1874, in company with William Bowers. Ten years later he sold his interest in the Shawnee Mills at Topeka and in 1886 disposed of his interest in the Wichita Mills, at which time he purchased a mill at Salina, Kansas, in company with his son, Fred D. Shellabarger. The mill had a capacity of two hundred barrels which has since been increased to twelve hundred barrels and there are thirty-three elevators operated in connection with the business. David Shellabarger is the president of the Shellabarger Elevator Company, having thirteen elevators at different points, while four lumber yards are conducted in connection with these. A man of resourceful business ability, his plans are carefully formed and promptly executed. He is seldom if ever at fault in his judgment concerning the value of a business transaction or opportunity and his initiative spirit

has carried him into important commercial relations. He is now president of a coal company and has become widely known in financial circles, being the first vice president of the National Bank of Decatur after it was reorganized, while in July, 1902, he was elected to the presidency and has since been its chief executive officer.

In the public life of the community Mr. Shellabarger has been prominent for many years. His fellow townsmen would accord him almost any gift within their power and yet his aspirations have not been in the line of office holding. He has, however, served for two terms as alderman of the first ward, and was mayor of the city for one term, filling that office when the first water works was built. He was in the council when the movement was instituted and was occupying the chair of municipal executive on the completion of that public utility. In public affairs as in private life it has been his habit to carry forward to successful completion whatever he has undertaken and his loyalty to the general good has been again and again demonstrated in many tangible ways, particularly in his cooperation with a generous suppport of projects instituted for the benefit of the city.

On the 7th of January, 1862, Mr. Shellabarger was married to Miss Anna E. Krone of Decatur, and unto them have been born seven children: William L.; Lucien C.; Fred D.; Adele S., the wife of E. B. Hillman of Quincy, Illinois; Marie S., the wife of Smith Crowder of Oakland, California; Grace S., the wife of J. M. Allen of Decatur; and Corinne S., the wife of Thomas H. Ramsey of Red Bluff, California.

Mr. Shellabarger has been a member of the Masonic fraternity since 1858 and has attained the Knights Templar degree in the order. For fifty-two years he has been a member of the Grace Methodist Episcopal church, being converted and joining the church when it sood on the exact site of the National Bank of Decatur, of which Mr. Shellabarger is the president. For eighteen years he has been superintendent of the Sunday school, for many years has been on the official board and has also served as one of the church trustees. He takes a very active interest in religious work and in fact in every movement that tends to uplift humanity and to advance intellectual and moral progress. The name of Shellabarger is indeed inseparably interwoven with the history of Decatur and has ever stood here as a synonym for honorable activity as well as for successful accomplishment.

T. QUICKEL.

T. Quickel, a retired agriculturist residing on section 18, Long Creek township, is the owner of more than a section of land, all of which he leases. The rest which he now enjoys is the fitting reward of a life of untiring industry, indefatigable energy and well directed effort. His birth occurred in York county, Pennsylvania, on the 25th of February, 1835, his parents being Michael and Katherine (Krone) Quickel. About the year 1660 three brothers of the name emigrated from Germany to America, landing at Baltimore, Maryland. One settled in York county, Pennsylvania, and the other went to North Carolina

but all trace of these two has been lost, our subject's direct ancestor being the only one of whom there is any record. The ancestors of T. Quickel were on the whole leading, cultured and prominent people, several of them following the profession of teaching and one serving as a justice of the peace. All lived to attain a ripe old age, the grandfather of our subject being one hundred and three years old at the time of his demise. Michael Quickel, the father of Mr. Quickel of this review, passed away in 1846 when fifty-one years of age, while his wife was called to her final rest in 1897 at the age of ninety years. One of their sons died as the result of hardships endured in the Civil war, while two of their daughters yet reside in Pennsylvania.

T. Quickel, whose name introduces this review, attended the schools of the Keystone state in the acquirement of an education and remained on his father's farm until a youth of eighteen, when he left home and began learning the miller's trade. Wishing to augment his knowledge, he again entered school and subsequently taught in Pennsylvania for a period of ten years, proving an able and successful educator. In 1864 he journeyed westward in search of a favorable location. After traveling all over the state of Iowa he came to Illinois and at the end of six months' residence in Decatur selected Long Creek township as a permanent place of abode, locating on a partly improved farm of eighty acres in section 13 in 1867. He paid forty dollars an acre for the property and as his financial resources increased he extended the boundaries of his farm by additional purchase from time to time until it now embraces more than a section of land. General agricultural pursuits claimed his attention throughout his active business career and in connection with the tilling of the soil he also devoted considerable time to the raising of stock, fattening hogs and cattle. For two terms he likewise taught school in Macon county. There are miles of tiling on his estate and the farm is a model one in every respect, growing more valuable each year. Though still giving his supervision to its operation, the property is being cultivated by tenants and Mr. Quickel is living practically retired. The prosperity which has crowned his efforts is directly attributable to his own labors, for he started out in life for himself with nothing except a sound body and mind. He still resides on his farm, preferring the peace and quiet of rural surroundings to the bustle and confusion of city life. At the time of the Civil war he enlisted for service in the Union army but, accidentally breaking his ankle, he was unable to go to the front.

Mr. Quickel has been married twice. In September, 1866, he wedded Miss Mary A. Reeser, of York county, Pennsylvania, her parents being William and Elizabeth Reeser. One daughter, Katherine Elizabeth, was born of this union. The wife and mother passed away in Long Creek township in 1870 and the following year Mr. Quickel was again married, his second union being with Miss Elizabeth A. Hursh, of Cumberland county, Pennsylvania. Her parents, Christopher and Katherine (Spahn) Hursh, were prominent residents of the Keystone state. By his second wife Mr. Quickel has one son, Oscar H., whose birth occurred on the 7th of March, 1873.

In politics Mr. Quickel is a stalwart democrat and for several years he served as a school director. He is a member of the Grange and also belongs to the Methodist church, the teachings of which he exemplifies in his daily life.

He speaks the German language and is a well informed man, keeping in touch with the progress of the times. His tastes are simple and he is temperate in all things. The period of his residence in Macon county covers more than four decades and he is widely and favorably known within its borders. He has now passed the seventy-fifth milestone on life's journey and receives the respect and veneration which should ever be accorded one who has traveled thus far on this earthly pilgrimage and whose career has been at all times upright and honorable.

WILLIAM F. BERRY.

William F. Berry, who is recognized as one of the represenative farmers of Macon county, was born in Menard county, Illinois, in 1855. He is a son of John C. Berry, who was also a native of Menard county and a son of John M. Berry, a noted Presbyterian minister and one of the early circuit riders of Illinois. The father of our subject was educated under pioneer conditions in Menard county and became a farmer, later removing to DeWitt county and locating in Macon county about 1870. After cultivating rented land most of the time for a number of years he removed to Missouri and died in Cooper county in March, 1906. He yielded to the gold excitement and traveled overland to California in 1859, although the journey was in some degree undertaken for the benefit of his health. He returned home without any large amount of the yellow metal but he brought with him a goodly store of health, so that he lived for forty-seven years after his eventful journey and witnessed the great transformation by which the west was redeemed from the wilderness for the use of man. The mother of our subject, who was Jane Duncan before her marriage, was born at Nauvoo, Illinois, in 1833 and accompanied her parents on their removal to Sangamon county, where she was married. She is now making her home with the subject of this review. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Berry: Benjamin, who died in infancy; Mary, now Mrs. Roberts, of Kansas City; William F.; Martha, now Mrs. Cook, of Farmer City, Illinois; and John H., James C. and Edward A., all of Missouri.

William F. Berry was born in Menard county, this state, and educated in the public schools of DeWitt county, Illinois, where his parents took up their residence when he was an infant. He grew up as a farmer boy and began for himself after his marriage, renting land in Macon county. He acquired an enviable reputation as an energetic and capable farmer and in 1904 removed to his present location on a section of land owned by J. Smith, which he operates with the assistance of three sons. He is also the owner of forty acres of good farm land in Maroa township, this county.

In 1876 Mr. Berry was united in marriage to Miss Eva J. Shockey, who was born in Kentucky in 1856 and is a daughter of James M. and Augusta (Ross) Shockey, also natives of Kentucky, who came to Illinois in 1862 and both died in this county. Mrs. Berry is the only child of her parents now living, those deceased being James M., Nancy, George R., Alice, Jennie, Dora and Grant.

The union of Mr. and Mrs. Berry has been blessed by six children. Samuel A., born in 1877, was married to Miss Delia Dukes, of Macon county, and is the father of four children. Ora G., born in 1879, married Minnie Carpenter, of Macon county, and is the father of two children. Anna L., born in 1881, became the wife of J. Reed and the mother of two children. J. C., who was born in 1883, married Ida Page and is the father of two children. Clarence W., born in 1885, is living at home. Clara, born in 1887, also resides at home.

Mr. Berry has always taken the interest of a patriotic citizen in the growth and welfare of the region where he lives and he usually votes for the candidates of the republican party. He is industrious and energetic in anything he undertakes, and he and his estimable wife have set an example of perseverance and patience which assists so materially in smoothing out the rough ways and making life agreeable.

CURTIS W. RORK.

Among the flourishing farmers of Long Creek township, Macon county, should be named Curtis W. Rork, who was born in Blue Mound township, near Boody, January 1, 1863. He is a son of Joseph and Ellen E. (Murray) Rork, who were natives of Ireland, born near Dublin, the father in 1823 and the mother in 1816. They both arrived in America about 1847 and were married in 1851 in New York, continuing there for six years. Coming west, they located in Kentucky for one year, at the end of which time they removed to Macon county, Illinois, settling on a farm of thirty acres near Boody. About 1865 the father sold out and removed to Long Creek township, where he purchased forty acres of land on section 29 from a Mr. Cunningham. It was raw prairie land but by hard work it was improved, attaining a reputation as the finest land in this part of the state. Here Mr. Rork engaged in growing cereals and in stock-raising with marked success, increasing his holdings from year to year according to the degree of his prosperity until he became the owner of a fine farm of five hundred and ninety acres, upon which stand two modern residences and which he beautified by planting shade trees and making many other improvements. He made a specialty for a number of years of feeding cattle and hogs, which he shipped to Chicago and Indianapolis markets. Starting practically without a dollar, he attained a position of independence by hard work, in which he always found a willing assistant in his wife, and they were both widely noted for their kindness and their many charities. Mr. Rork retired from active farming in 1890 but remained upon the farm until his death, which occurred November 5, 1893. The beloved wife was called away December 2, 1900. Three children were born to them: Curtis W.; Joseph C.; and Mrs. Elizabeth Foley, who died September 1, 1891.

The subject of this review grew up as a farm boy and was educated in the public schools and since eighteen years of age has devoted his attention to farming. After the death of his father he received his share of the family estate and now is the owner of two hundred and forty acres of valuable land, occupying the

old homestead which was built by his father and which is endeared to him by many fond associations. Like his father, he has pursued general farming and stock-raising, giving special attention to the raising of fast horses. He has devoted to his work an enthusiasm and ability that seldom fail to yield gratifying results, and as a horse breeder he has gained an enviable reputation which extends beyond the limits of Macon county.

On February 10, 1909, Mr. Rork was united in marriage to Miss Mayme Welch, of Denver, Colorado, a daughter of Daniel and Bridget (Burke) Welch, who were born in County Kerry, Ireland, and coming to this country were married at Anderson, Indiana, in 1865. Mr. Welch reached New York, March 1, 1863, and established himself in Indianapolis, where he maintained headquarters for railway construction for many years. His wife was called away thirty years ago and he is now retired from active labor and spends his time with his children in Illinois, Oklahoma and Denver, his son James now being general superintendent of the Colorado & Southern Railway.

Mr. Rork is a supporter of the republican party but has not aspired to political honors although he has served with great acceptance to the tax-payers and people of his region as commissioner of highways. He is affiliated with the Catholic church and in all the relations of life has so conducted himself as to gain the esteem of all with whom he has come in contact. He is justly regarded as one of the substantial and progressive citizens of Macon county.

LOWBER BURROWS.

Lowber Burrows was long a most honored and distinguished citizen of Decatur and to the closing hours of his life he preserved the precious prize of keen mentality, although he was nearing the eightieth milestone on life's journey when the end came. Such a man must Victor Hugo have had in mind when he said: "Though the frost of winter was on his head the flowers of spring were in his heart." In appearance Mr. Burrows seemed a much younger man and in spirit and interests was yet in his prime. Fifty-eight years he lived in Decatur and from the day of his arrival until the closing hours of his life he was a prominent factor in the city, contributing as few others have done to its development and progress.

A native of Pennsylvania, Mr. Burrows was born in the city of Philadelphia, November 9, 1830. His parents were cultured and well-to-do people. His father, John Wesley Burrows, was of English extraction, while his mother came of Dutch parentage. Spending his youthful days in their home, Lowber Burrows attended the public schools of Philadelphia until he entered business circles with bookkeeping as his first experience along mercantile lines. He came to Decatur as clerk through the influence of Jasper J. Peddecord, with whom he formed in time a partnership for the conduct of a general mercantile store. From the beginning the venture was successful and the business gradually increased. At that time the firm owned the only fireproof safe in Macon county and their patrons frequently asked the favor of allowing them to place their ready money in this

safe for protection. Soon the safe became nearly filled with the money bags belonging to the patrons of the store, and examination revealed the fact that over twenty-five thousand dollars were on deposit there. In view of the responsibility resting upon the firm in keeping so large a sum, the depositors were asked to allow the various deposits to be placed to their credit subject to check. This was agreed to and thus the first banking business of Decatur was organized. It became a popular department of the house of Peddecord & Burrows, and in three years the business of that department had grown so rapidly that it was decided to dispose of their mercantile interests and devote their undivided attention to banking. In 1857 William Martin was admitted to a partnership under the firm style of Peddecord, Burrows & Company. He retired after two years and the old firm of Peddecord & Burrows was then resumed. This partnership was maintained without interruption until 1878, when William M. Boyd joined them under the firm style of Peddecord, Burrows & Company. There was no other change until 1889, when Mr. Boyd died, but the style of the house was not changed until the death of Mr. Peddecord in 1899, when the business was reorganized under the name of L. Burrows & Company. From the outset the business of the bank continued to increase along substantial lines and a general banking business was conducted. Mr. Burrows proved that he was able to solve intricate financial problems and met every demand made upon him in this connection. His bank, as from the beginning, remained the foremost financial enterprise of the city, its stability unweakened in times of financial storm, its integrity ever being above question.

Mr. Burrows, however, was a man of marked business ability and did not confine his efforts to one single line. His resourcefulness enabled him to reach out into broad fields and many interests profited by his support, his cooperation and his sound business judgment. He became a half owner in the Decatur Furniture Factory which had been established by W. A. Barnes and William Lintner for the manufacture of pumps, while later they took up the manufacture of certain lines of furniture. When the firm of Peddecord & Burrows purchased the furniture factory they began the manufacture of high grade furniture and also continued the manufacture of pumps for a time. Mr. Burrows became an extensive investor in real estate. He purchased property when ten dollars an acre was considered a high price for Macon county farms. He sold thousands of acres in Macon, Moultrie, Shelby and adjoining counties at a less figure, and even then there was no rush for purchases. He lived to see much of this property increase ten and some of it twentyfold in value, and holding much of it, he derived in his later years a very substantial income from his holdings.

After residing for two years in Decatur, during which he satisfied himself of its future prospects, he returned to Philadelphia and there on the 14th of March, 1854, was married to Miss Lavinia Bering, a sister of J. Edward Bering, although the latter did not come to Decatur until long after the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Burrows. With his bride Mr. Burrows immediately returned to his western home and as there was no railroad entering the town at that time they completed their journey by stage coach. Fifty years later, on the 14th of April, 1904, they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, postponing it for a month because of the Lenten season. Theirs was a most happy married life and an ex-

ceptionally congenial relationship, terminating only in death on the 8th of January, 1908, when Mrs. Burrows passed away. They were the parents of four children yet living: J. Bering Burrows, a resident of Decatur; Mrs. Ida M. Daniel, of Columbus, Ohio; Miss Maude I. Burrows, of Decatur; and Mrs. M. Bell Strange, of Minneapolis. Their eldest son, Lucien L. Burrows, died in 1905.

Mr. and Mrs. Burrows were among the founders of St. John's Episcopal church and took a most active and helpful part in its work. Mr. Burrows served as a member of the vestry for many years, entering upon the position when the membership of the church did not exceed a dozen. The meetings were then held in the old Masonic hall and later in a second floor room on Water street. In 1858 a lot on Water street was purchased at a cost of five hundred dollars and the church building was erected. The first Christmas in the new church building was duly celebrated and it is believed to be the first time Christmas was ever observed as a holy day in Decatur. Here, too, was said to be the first children's Christmas tree and the custom of decorating the church at Christmas with evergreen and on Easter with flowers was first introduced by St. John's although largely since copied by other religious bodies. On the occasion of his seventy-ninth birthday anniversary the vestry of St. John's as a testimonial of high esteem and appreciation adopted resolutions in honor of Mr. Burrows and at the same time presented him with a handsome gold-headed cane of ebony, appropriately inscribed, and a large bouquet of American beauty roses.

He was one of the oldest member of Macon Lodge, No. 8, A. F. & A. M., and he also belonged to Decatur Club. He would never consent to hold public office save that of a member of the park board from 1892 until 1899. He took a great interest in the parks and much of their present beauty is due to his efforts. He was throughout his life an intense lover of flowers. Their cultivation was his recreation, their beauty ever a source of keen delight. In the little home to which he brought his bride he cultivated a window garden and when it was possible to make other arrangements he built a bay window on the south side of his house and filled it with flowers. At length he built a conservatory—the first private conservatory in this part of the state. There Mr. Burrows spent his leisure hours for five years, in which time he learned much about the cultivation of plants and flowers. In 1880 to secure proper temperature he built another greenhouse back of his residence and in this way was able to grow roses, carnations, chrysanthemums and palms, and was very successful in his cultivation of all kinds of plants and flowers. As it became possible he began the cultivation of rare plants until his assortment was as varied as could be found anywhere in this state. He understood the plants from a scientific standpoint and, moreover, had the deepest love for them. It was not infrequent that he would take a plant that someone else had abandoned and bring it to a healthful and blossoming condition. Moreover he was most generous with his flowers and plants and the blossoms were constantly seen in the sickrooms, not only of his friends but in the homes of rich and poor alike where he believed that they would add to happiness and cheer. Nor was his taste for the beautiful confined to flowers, for he was largely a connoisseur in music, in art and in literature. His pictures were always of the best and while he did not seek to have the largest library, his was composed of the choicest books.

Another phase of Mr. Burrows' character that made him extremely popular was his pronounced social traits. No one had keener appreciation for the good qualities in others. He enjoyed to the full the companionship of his friends and held friendship inviolable. His home was for many years the center of the social life of Decatur and in the period following the Civil war, when many early entertainments were given by the town people in the nature of theatricals, cantatas and tableaux, Mr. Burrows was always a leading figure in such and displayed rare ability as an actor. It is said that his rendition of Shylock in the Merchant of Venice has never been excelled in Decatur either by amateurs or professionals. He had an almost inexhaustible fund of humor and no one could more quickly see the ridiculous side of anything.

The death of Mr. Burrows occurred on the 16th of October, 1910. He was almost eighty years of age but in appearance seemed much younger and his active interest in the affairs of the present continued to his demise. Unlike so many of the aged, his thoughts were not retrospective. He was a believer in progress and his own life exemplified that spirit. At the time of his death one of the local papers in an account of his life said: "Mr. Burrows came here from Philadelphia in 1852, a handsome, polished, courtly gentleman. Illinois was new at that time and things were raw. The inhabitants were trying to wrest a living from the soil and without drainage, without roads, without markets it was a perpetual struggle. The polished young easterner settled down among them and stayed here. He never lost one whit of his polish, he never relinquished an iota of his courtesy. He was successful in a business way but what is of even more importance was his social value to the town. For many years, for, indeed, a period of nearly half a century, his house was one of the social centers. He quickly took position as the social leader and through all his life here, until the last dozen years, he was the most active social factor. The death of Lowber Burrows is the ending of a cycle, the closing of an era. The passing of a man so conspicuous for so long a period in the business and social life of a community means much more than that another has joined the great majority. It really means the ending of one important epoch. The Decatur of the past sixty years has gone forever. The Decatur of the future will be quite a different thing. No one man will ever bear the same relation to the Decatur of the future that Lowber Burrows bore to the Decatur of the past."

CLYDE C. YOUNG.

With good technical training to supplement the practical experience which he received under the direction of his father during the period of his boyhood and youth, Clyde C. Young is now operating the old homestead farm according to progressive and up-to-date methods, the utilization of which is bringing him substantial and gratifying success. Born in Christian county, Illinois, on the 9th of January, 1875, he is a son of B. F. and Sabila F. (Schrantz) Young, natives of Ohio. The former was born in 1835 in Canton, Ohio, and in 1866 came to Illinois, locating in Christian county, where he carried on farming for

a number of years. He is now living retired, however, making his home in Stewardson, Illinois. In 1868 he wedded Sabila F. Schrantz and unto them were bore two children. The elder, Orres E., was born in 1871, and is now married, making his home in Detroit, Michigan.

The second son, Clyde C. Young, received his preliminary training in the public schools of Illinois and later attended the University of Illinois, where he pursued a course in natural science. He then profited by a year's study in the Northwestern College of Pharmacy at Chicago and after leaving that institution was employed in the drug business for about six years. At the end of that time, in 1899, he was married, and, returning to agricultural pursuits, began his domestic life upon his father's farm, which is still his place of residence. The farm is a well developed property of two hundred and forty acres located on sections 11 and 14, South Macon township, and the excellent condition of the fields and the neat appearance of the place speak for well directed effort and intelligently applied labor on the part of Mr. Young. Indeed, enterprise and progress might well be termed the salient elements in his life, and the success which is now his is a strong argument in favor of practical experience, reinforced by thorough technical training.

In 1899 Mr. Young wedded Miss Alice Lewis, who was born in 1877 and is the eldest of a family of five children, her parents being James S. and Jane (Burris) Lewis, natives of Sangamon county, Illinois.

Mr. Young is well known and prominent in fraternal circles, holding membership in Decatur Lodge, No. 189, K. P., and also in Decatur Lodge, No. 401, B. P. O. E. Interested as all American citizens should be, in the political situation of the country, he has thoroughly informed himself concerning the questions and issues of the day and gives stalwart support to the republican party. He is now serving his second term as school director but aside from that office he has never held nor sought political preferment, choosing rather to devote his time and attention to the management of his personal interests. Comparatively a young man in years, he is still imbued with the spirit of energy and ambition which usually attends a man during the early years of his business career, and the position to which these elements have already brought him in the path to prosperity augurs well for a bright future.

ELROY COTTINGHAM.

Elroy Cottingham is one of the energetic and enterprising farmers of South Wheatland township, Macon county. He lives on a highly improved place of four hundred acres on section 15 and is recognized as an up-to-date agriculturist and stock-raiser, who is thoroughly posted as to practical farming operations and competent to solve almost any problem that may arise in his chosen calling. He was born in Clay county, Illinois, March 1, 1864, and is a son of George and Martha (Hurlock) Cottingham. The father of our subject was born in Noblesville, Indiana, and came to Illinois in the early '60s and settled in Clay county but later moved to Jasper county, where he departed this life in 1892 at

the age of fifty-six years. He was an educated man and for a number of years taught school, later directing his attention to farming. He was a man of excellent mental resources, a good teacher and a successful farmer. The mother was born in Indiana in 1837 and is now, at seventy-three years of age, living with her children, where she receives the loving attentions which are due to a mother who never hesitated at any sacrifice to promote the welfare and happiness of her family. There were nine children born to Mr. and Mrs. Cottingham, our subject being the third in order of birth.

Elroy Cottingham grew to manhood upon the home farm and was educated in the common schools, beginning his business career by working for wages. In 1893 he commenced farming on his own account and in 1902 he removed to his present residence, which is the Murphy estate, and here engages in general farming, also raises live stock for the market and has conducted his operations with a good judgment that from year to year has produced very satisfactory returns.

In 1898 Mr. Cottingham was united in marriage to Miss Vinnie Metcalf, a daughter of Fenton and Mary (Whitson) Metcalf, natives of Indiana. She was the sixth in a family of ten children and was born July 14, 1871. Three children have blessed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cottingham: Grace, born April 8, 1901; Edith, June 15, 1903; and Florence, February 15, 1910.

Mr. Cottingham is an adherent of the republican party and, although he has not been an aspirant for political honors, he has for the last four years served most acceptably as member of the school board of his district. He and his wife are esteemed members of the Methodist Episcopal church and in their lives have attempted to put into effect the teachings of the Great Book which they have found to be a constant solace and an inspiration for the duties which have arisen from day to day.

WILLIAM S. SMITH.

William S. Smith, who for the last eight years has been living retired at Niantic, and who, during a large part of a long life, was actively identified with the farming interests of Macon county, is a native of Kentucky, born in Nicholas county, December 4, 1835, and is a son of William S. and Elizabeth (Henderson) Smith. The father departed this life a short time before the birth of our subject, leaving a widow and three children. The mother was again married and about 1840 the family came to Shelby county, Illinois, and settled upon a farm.

It was in the midst of pioneer conditions that William S. Smith grew up, and he possessed little advantages of school education, as his stepfather kept him hard at work, giving him little opportunity for attendance at the neighboring schoolhouse. However, our subject gained a great deal of practical education in the affairs of the farm, so that at eighteen years of age he branched out for himself, finally purchasing a farm of one hundred acres in Dora township, Moultrie county, for which he gave his note. He prospered and in the spring

of 1888 came to Macon county, where he purchased a promising farm of one hundred and sixty-four acres, which he developed with great assiduity, but finally traded it for his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 20, Harristown township, which was then valued at one hundred and ten dollars per acre. In 1902 Mr. Smith erected a handsome residence in Niantic, to which he removed, and here he is spending his declining years, enjoying the fruits of many years of self-denial and rightly directed application, during which time he not only advanced his own interests, but greatly promoted the interests of others.

In December, 1863, Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Miss Margaret E. Bushart, of Moultrie county, by whom he had eight children, one of these being Alvah R. Smith, whose record appears elsewhere in this work. After the death of his first wife Mr. Smith was a second time married, the lady of his choice being Mrs. Caroline Smith, the widow of his brother, and she has proven to him a faithful and loving companion. He is identified with the republican party and, although he has never sought official preferment, he has held several minor political offices, in which he displayed the same interest that he has exhibited in his own affairs. He and his wife are active members of the Christian church and firm believers in the inspiration of the gospel. They have many friends in Macon county, where they are widely and favorably known. The success of Mr. Smith is due to his industry, economy and clear judgment and also to his acknowledged integrity and exemplary life.

D. J. PHILLIPS.

Among the self-made residents of Macon county, Illinois, who owe their present prosperity entirely to their own well directed efforts in agricultural lines, is numbered D. J. Phillips, who carries on general farming and stock-raising in Pleasant View township. A native of Ohio, he was born in Chillicothe, Ross county, on the 12th of January, 1852, and is a son of John T. and Mary (Walters) Phillips, the former born in Virginia in October, 1827, and the latter in Pottsville, Pennsylvania. The father, who carried on general farming for a number of years, is yet living and makes his home near Decatur, Illinois. The mother passed away on the 16th of September, 1883, and was laid to rest in Salem cemetery. Her two brothers, John and Captain James D. Walters, were veterans of the Civil war, the former enlisting from Memphis, Tennessee, as a member of the cavalry and the latter from Illinois as a member of the artillery. In the family of John T. and Mary Phillips were six children, as follows: D. J., of this review; Louis, of Oklahoma; Charles and W. L., residing near Decatur; Adam, making his home in Decatur; and Oliver, of St. Louis.

During the period of his boyhood and youth D. J. Phillips attended the Cross Roads and the Elwin schools, near Decatur, in the pursuit of an education and later for four years was engaged in teaching in those institutions. The periods of vacation were spent as a farm hand, for his training in agricultural lines had by no means been neglected, early becoming familiar with all the tasks

that fall to the lot of the country lad. In 1882, deciding to devote his entire time and attention to farming, he purchased thirty-seven acres of land near Decatur, which he operated for some time. He then leased that place and rented a larger farm near Boody for five years, after which he returned to his own farm, remaining thereupon for two years. He then came to Pleasant View township in 1893, where he has since rented one hundred and twenty acres of land from Mr. Groniger. Here he carries on general farming and stock-raising, and his enterprising spirit, close application and businesslike methods are salient features in winning him a degree of prosperity which is most creditable.

On the 18th of September, 1884, Mr. Phillips was united in marriage to Miss Mary Downey, who was born in Macon, Illinois, February 10, 1862, a daughter of John and Mary (Coleman) Downey. The father, who was born in Ireland about 1800, came to America in the same year that the Wabash Railroad was built and passed away in 1886, his remains being interred in Macon, where he had located as a young man. His wife, also a native of Ireland, where her birth occurred in 1823, died in 1892 and was likewise buried in Macon. Their family consisted of five children, but only Mrs. Phillips is now living. She has proven herself a true helpmate and has done much toward advancing her husband's interests. She is an extensive chicken-raiser, in which direction she is meeting with gratifying success, and her efforts therein are proving an important feature of the farm.

The religious faith of Mr. Phillips is indicated by his membership in the Catholic church, while in fraternal circles he is identified with the Woodmen camp. He gives his political support to the democratic party and for several years was collector of the township. In public office and in private life alike he has ever displayed those qualities which speak for good citizenship, and he enjoys the respect and confidence of his fellowmen. He and his wife occupy a prominent place in the community in which they reside and are popular with their many friends because of their generous, kindly nature and the warm hospitality of their home.

JAMES G. LEONARD.

Among the prosperous young farmers of Macon township is James G. Leonard, who is the owner of one hundred and forty-seven acres of the Leonard homestead and the home place in Harristown township, Macon county. He has spent his life upon a farm and was born near Illiopolis, Sangamon county, Illinois, October 2, 1876. He is a son of Samuel and Elizabeth S. (Foster) Leonard and was quite young when the family removed to Macon county. He was educated in the district schools and as he grew up he became acquainted with the varied operations of the farm, including not only the plowing and planting and gathering in the harvest, but also the raising and marketing of live stock, in which, from his boyhood, he has always taken a keen interest. He became a successful farmer and stock-raiser and in addition to his regular farming operations, he is the owner of two steam threshing outfits which he has managed so well that they have proven excellent paying investments.

On December 22, 1900, Mr. Leonard was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Moore, who was born in Virginia, a daughter of Hayden Moore. She came to Illinois with her parents in her girlhood, the family locating near Auburn, Sangamon county. She became acquainted with her future husband at the home of John Leonard, near Illiopolis. After residing on the home farm for four years, Mr. Leonard and his wife took up their residence on another farm, and in 1906 bought sixty-three acres on section 14, Harristown township, at one hundred and twenty-eight dollars an acre. At the time of the settlement of the Leonard estate he sold this land to his brother, H. K. Leonard, at two hundred dollars per acre. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Leonard: Dora, Myrtle, Edgar and Lawrence. The parents are both members of the Christian church. Mr. Leonard has always voted with the democratic party but has never been a seeker for political honors. He is now serving as road commissioner of his district. He is a man of energy and determination and is the fortunate possessor of an abundance of good common sense which he applies in the various details of his business. He has never been afraid of work and seeks labor rather than recreation and thus finds an outlet for his energy in what is useful rather than ornamental. Financially he is independent and he has many friends who recognize his sterling worth and are interested in his continued prosperity.

OTTO HERMAN TIETZE.

Otto Herman Tietze, owner of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 22, South Macon township, and one of the highly respected farmers of Macon county, belongs to stanch Teutonic ancestry. He was born in Berlin, Germany, May 29, 1861, and is a son of Herman and Mary Tietze, also natives of Germany. The father learned the weaver's trade in the old country but, desiring more favorable conditions for himself and family, came to America in 1866 and located in Illinois. He is now living with the subject of this review and has reached the venerable age of four score and five years. The mother was called away at the age of forty-five, in 1871.

Otto H. Tietze was the youngest of four children and grew up in the parental home, receiving his education in the public schools. After laying his books aside he began working for wages, continuing until nineteen years of age, since which time he has farmed for himself. By diligence and economy he acquired the capital with which he purchased eighty acres of land in 1891, forming a portion of the farm which he now owns, and in 1904 purchased eighty acres adjoining. He has devoted his attention to general farming and stock-raising, and his labors have been from year to year rewarded, so that at the present time he is one of the most successful agriculturists in one of the most prosperous farming districts of the state.

Mr. Tietze has been twice married, his first wife being Miss Emma Richardson, to whom he was united in 1884, a daughter of William and Mary Richardson, the former a native of England and the latter of Illinois. Mrs. Tietze died leaving two children, the elder of whom, Stella Mary, was born in

July, 1887, and became the wife of Homer Whittaker. They are now living in Macon county and are the parents of two children. William, the second child, was born in June, 1889, and was married January 30, 1910, to Viola Cook, a daughter of Charles and Kate Cook, of Macon county. They are also living in this county. Mr. Tietze was a second time married in 1901, selecting as his wife Miss Lillian Ellis, a daughter of James and Mary Ellis, who were born in Indiana and came to this state in the early days. Mr. Ellis served three years and six months in the Civil war, enlisting in Company B, Eightieth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and participating in many of the great battles of the Rebellion, among which were those of Lookout Mountain and Chattanooga. He was with Sherman's army in its march to the sea, and as a soldier, nobly performed his duty. He and his estimable wife are now living in Windsor, Illinois. They are the parents of seven children, Mrs. Tietze having been born May 18, 1871. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Tietze: Roeder E., born July 12, 1902; and James O., born December 10, 1907. Mrs. Tietze received a good education and was a teacher for one year in the Macon high school and for eleven years in the township schools, attaining an enviable reputation in the calling. One of her brothers taught for six years and three of her sisters were also teachers, each of them having four years' experience in the schoolroom. The members of the family are now all married except one brother and one sister.

Mr. Tietze is allied to the democratic party and votes for its candidates in national elections, but in local affairs is independent. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Macon, of which he is trustee. Mrs. Tietze is an active worker in the Home Missionary Society and is also an esteemed member of the Order of the Eastern Star. Mr. Tietze has found in his wife an intelligent and sympathetic companion, who has been to him an invaluable assistant in all deserving undertakings. Nature endowed the subject of this review with the qualities of character that count for most in the attainment of a worthy manhood and he has secured the confidence and respect of all who know him. A plain, straightforward man, his object in life has been to do good according to his opportunities and in this object he has indeed succeeded.

EDWARD B. COMBS.

When determination, hard work and careful management form the basis upon which any business enterprise is founded the result is almost absolutely certain, and it is to these qualities that Edward B. Combs attributes the fact that today he ranks among Macon county's most successful and substantial agriculturists. Born in Greene county, Indiana, on the 24th of July, 1852, he is the second son of J. J. and Sarah (Whittaker) Combs. The father was born in North Carolina in 1825 and the mother in Ohio in 1835, and at an early day they took up their abode in Greene county, Indiana. At the time of their arrival that region was a wild, unsettled district, with few evidences of modern civilization. The nearest town was Vincennes, a small village about

sixty-five miles distant, to which they were compelled to drive in order to purchase groceries and other necessities of life. That remained their home until 1861, when they removed still further west, locating in Christian county, Illinois, where they resided for four years. At the expiration of that period they took up their home in Macon county and here Mr. Combs was engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1899, when the success which had attended his efforts made it possible for him to retire from active business, and he became a resident of Macon, where he was living at the time of his death, on the 11th of February, 1909. In the early days he had purchased considerable property at from a dollar and a quarter to thirty dollars per acre, being at the time of his death the owner of nine hundred and eighty acres—land which increased in value with the passing of the years and the rapid settlement of the country, making him one of the wealthy landowners of his section. His widow, who survives him, makes her home in Macon and is well known among a large circle of warm friends. She is a faithful and devoted member of the Baptist church, the teachings of which have ever proved the guiding influence of her life.

Edward B. Combs was a lad of nine years when he came with his parents to Illinois, and in the schools of Macon he acquired a good education. Nor was his practical training neglected, for during the periods of vacation he worked upon his father's farm and amid the busy activities of rural life formed good habits and learned lessons of industry, integrity and perseverance, qualities which proved valuable assets in his future career. He remained at home, assisting his father, until he attained his majority, when he left the parental roof to establish the foundation for a happy home of his own through marriage. At that time he purchased three hundred acres of land in Mount Zion and South Wheatland townships, and later, as he prospered, he became the owner of three hundred and seventy-five acres in Clay county, Illinois. The appearance of his home farm, located on section 30, Mount Zion township, indicates clearly a life of thrift, of unfaltering perseverance and of hard, earnest labor, for when it came into his possession thirty-four years ago it was an undeveloped tract of land, with no buildings, and all of the excellent improvements with which it is equipped today were placed thereupon by Mr. Combs. The residence which he erected is modern and up-to-date in every particular, the barns and outbuildings are substantial and commodious and the place is today the best tiled farm in Mount Zion township and perhaps in Macon county. He engages in general farming and stock-raising, paying especial attention to oats, wheat and corn, and sells on an average of over fifteen thousand bushels of the latter commodity annually. Aside from his farming interests, which rank him among the foremost agriculturists of his section of the county, he is interested in a fourteen county telephone line in Texas, of which his son Alfred J. is manager.

It was on the 13th of August, 1873, that Mr. Combs was united in marriage to Miss Luella Whittaker, a daughter of Samuel and Susan (Smith) Whittaker, natives of Coshocton county, Ohio. The mother, who was born on the 28th of April, 1827, passed away in April, 1908, at the ripe old age of eighty-one years. The father, whose birth occurred on the 22d of February, 1830, for many years followed farming in Wisconsin, was later engaged in the grain business in Illinois, and is now making his home in Colorado, where his

time and attention are occupied in superintending extensive mining interests. His daughter, Mrs. Combs, who was born on the 19th of April, 1855, is the only surviving child of the family, a son, Alfred Judson Whittaker, having passed away about ten years ago, at the age of fifty years, leaving four children.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Combs have been born the following children: Alfred J., who was born on the 12th of June, 1874; Inez, who passed away at the age of twenty-two years; Maud I., who wedded Ora Herbert; and Pearl G. and Maimie E. They also adopted the only child of their daughter, Inez, who passed away when her son was but five weeks old, leaving a husband who still survives her.

Fraternally Mr. Combs holds membership with the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America, and in politics he gives stanch support to the republican party. He has, however, repeatedly refused to become a candidate for public office to which his fellow citizens would elect him, preferring rather that his political services should be done in a private capacity, deeming his personal interests sufficient to fully occupy his time and attention. It has been this close attention to business, combined with a capacity for hard work and an unusual aptitude for good management, that has formed the basis of his present gratifying success, and the qualities which have proved salient features in his business career are quite worthy of emulation. Nor can his success in life, however, be measured in terms of material gain alone, for his personal traits of character have ever been such as commanded the respect, confidence and good will of his fellowmen, and Macon county numbers him among her valued and representative adopted sons.

ALBERT H. MOSS.

Albert H. Moss, one of the younger farmers of Pleasant View township, is comfortably established in his life work and has proven highly successful in agricultural and business affairs. He was born on the farm where he now lives, April 2, 1881, and is a son of William and Henrietta (Delbridge) Moss. The father was born in Germany, June 23, 1832, and came to America at the age of fifteen years, settling in Macon county when conditions were quite different from what they are today. He has lived to see Decatur grow from a small village to a beautiful and flourishing city. The mother of our subject is also a native of Germany, born February 14, 1844. At the time of the Civil war the father was drafted into the army but his services being required at home he procured a substitute. He and his wife now make their home in Blue Mound. They were the parents of eight children, five of whom live and make their homes in Pleasant View township: Elizabeth, the wife of John Short; Fred; August; Emma, the wife of Lewis Reis; and Albert H.

The subject of this review was educated in the district schools and as he grew up became thoroughly familiar with all the details of farm work. At twenty-three years of age he was married and has still continued upon his father's farm, which consists of four hundred and eighty acres and of which

he rents one hundred acres on section 17, Pleasant View township. He is a large corn grower and, being a man of good judgment and great industry, has been very successful in all of his undertakings.

On the 21st of December, 1904, Mr. Moss was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Botoner, a native of Christian county, Illinois, born February 5, 1883, and a daughter of William and Margaret (Short) Botoner. Her father, who was born in Washington, D. C., April 10, 1860, came to this state and here he died May 15, 1904, being buried in Hall cemetery, near Blue Mound. The mother was born in Sedalia, Missouri, September 23, 1862, and she is now living in Blue Mound. Three children blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Botoner: Bertha, now Mrs. Moss; May, the wife of Rolland Davidson, of Pleasant View township; and Myrtle, now living with her mother. The two grandfathers of Mrs. Moss served in the Union army during the Civil war—Henry Botoner and William Short,—both of whom proved to be valiant soldiers for a noble cause. One child, Opal Lolita, born June 11, 1908, has come to brighten the home of Mr. and Mrs. Moss. This child is a representative of the fifth generation, now living, of the same family—a statement which can be made of very few families of the United States.

Mr. Moss gives his adherence to the democratic party and socially is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and the Woodmen of the World. Although he was reared in the German Lutheran church, he is now a member of the Methodist church, as is also his wife. He is a representative of the class of self-made men who combine steadfast purpose and excellent executive ability. Such men generally succeed in what they undertake and are respected by their neighbors and the entire community. The offspring of an excellent family, he has worthily upheld its reputation and today ranks as one of the substantial citizens of Macon county.

GEORGE W. EATON.

Among the soldiers of the Civil war now living in Decatur, the name of George W. Eaton is worthy of an honored place. He is living retired after a long life of activity and usefulness, three years of which were devoted to the service of his country. He was born in Washington county, Missouri June 4, 1831, and is the son of Lazarus Eaton, who was born in Rowan county, North Carolina, April 11, 1793. His mother was Lydia Bugg, who was born in 1796 and the parents were married September 18, 1815, in Haywood county, North Carolina. The father, who was a farmer, came to Perry county, Illinois, and here he departed this life August 22, 1872. The mother was called away November 10, 1863. Our subject's paternal grandfather was Abraham Eaton, also a native of Rowan county, North Carolina, while his Grandfather Bugg was a native of North Carolina and emigrated to Missouri in the early times, ending his days there. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Lazarus Eaton: Henry, born October 10, 1816; William L., born December 7, 1818; Isaac M., born September 3, 1820; Lazarus N., born August 22, 1822; John B, born

July 18, 1824; Nancy J., born December 24, 1826; Eliza A., born March 8, 1829; an infant, born November 3, 1834, who died at birth; and Andrew J., born February 9, 1837. The children of this family were all born in Washington county, Missouri, and our subject is the only one now living.

George W. Eaton had little opportunity for education in his boyhood, being reared under the most primitive pioneer conditions, and he therefore has received his instruction in the great school of experience. At sixteen years of age he began working on his father's farm in Perry county, Illinois and later was in the employ of farmers in that region, until 1855, when he was married and engaged in farming on his own account until 1862.

On August 1, 1862, at Duquoin, Illinois, Mr. Eaton enlisted in Company A, Eighty-First Illinois Infantry, under Captain James P. Cowan, to fight for the cause of the Union. The regiment was organized in Jackson county, Illinois, and mustered into service August 5, 1862, for a period of three years. Our subject became sergeant of his company and participated in many battles and numberless skirmishes. He was present at the battles of Raymond and Jackson, Mississippi, Champion's Hill, Black River and the siege of Vicksburg, which lasted from May 18 to July 4, 1863, and was almost one continuous battle. Going home on a furlough of thirty days, he rejoined his regiment at Vicksburg and took part in the Red River expedition, which was one of the important movements of the Army of the West. Later he went with his command to Memphis, Tennessee, and was present at the Guntown fight. The regiment was ordered to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and made the trip on steamboats up the Missouri river to Jefferson City in pursuit of the rebel General Price and on this expedition did considerable fighting. Returning to Benton Barracks, St. Louis, the regiment went down the river to Nashville, Tennessee, and was in the great battle near that city. Near the close of the war Sergeant Eaton went as far south as Mobile, Alabama. He returned to Montgomery, Alabama, and remained in that city for a month after Lee's surrender, to assist in maintaining peace. From that city the regiment went across the country to Vicksburg, where it was mustered out of service August 5, 1865. Sergeant Eaton drew his pay at Chicago after his return home. He was three times wounded, first at the battle of Vicksburg, where his hip was dislocated by a fragment from an exploded shell. He was also shot in the head and in the arm.

On March 15, 1855, in Perry county, Mr. Eaton was married by Squire Henry Brown to Miss Nancy E. Killingsworth, a native of Tennessee, whose parents were of the same state. Six children were born of this union: Mary E., Pleasant F., Alfred S., John H., Minnie and one who died at birth. His wife having been called away, Mr. Eaton was a second time married in Perry county, November 15, 1877, to Mrs. Mary Hurt, who was born in that county, October 6, 1845. She was the daughter of John and Amanda (Baxter) Baldridge, who came from Tennessee and settled in Perry county. Of the children born to the second marriage of Mr. Eaton six are now living: Gertrude E., born August 22, 1878, who is now the wife of John Crossman, of Macon county, and the mother of two children, Helen E. and Virginia; Flora, born August 9, 1880; George R., of Decatur, born November 5, 1882, who married

Elsie Whittaker and has two children, Ruth, deceased, and Ralph; Hershel, of Decatur, born January 17, 1885, who married Veva Clements, and has four children, Helen S., Opal E., Carl E. and Olga; Homer, born January 10, 1887; Leona, born August 18, 1889; and Ruth and Ralph, deceased. The first husband of Mrs. Mary Eaton was James B. Hurt, of Franklin county, Illinois, to whom she was married February 8, 1867, in Perry county. One child, Lizzie V., was the result of that union. She was born October 26, 1867, and is married, being the mother of seven children, Viola, Florence, Forrest, Lucille, Wilbur, Norma and Mildred, all of whom are living.

Mr. Eaton is a member of Dunham Post, No. 141, Grand Army of the Republic, of Decatur, and of the Methodist church. Politically he is in sympathy with the platform of the democratic party, but he often votes independently, being a man of broad mind who admires high character in a candidate even if he be of the opposite party. He is greatly respected by all who know him and as a brave soldier and useful citizen in times of peace he deserves an honorable place in the history of Macon county.

THEODORE A. GARDNER.

Theodore A. Gardner, the owner of a rich and productive tract of land comprising one hundred and twenty acres in Maroa township, derives a gratifying annual income from his farming and stock-raising interests. His birth occurred in Carroll county, Indiana, in 1855, his parents being Thomas and Sarah (Squire) Gardner, both of whom were natives of Butler county, Ohio, where they were reared and married. The father was born in the year 1829, while the mother's birth occurred in 1830. Leaving the Buckeye state, they located in Indiana, where Thomas Gardner purchased a small tract of land and followed farming for six or seven years. In 1858 he came to Illinois, purchasing a farm of sixty acres in De Witt county, where he made his home for eight years. On the expiration of that period, in 1866, he came to Macon county, purchasing and locating upon a quarter section of land just across from the present home place of our subject. There he carried on his agricultural interests continuously and successfully until 1902, when he put aside the active work of the fields and removed to the town of Maroa. Subsequently he took up his abode in Decatur, which city numbers him among its respected residents at the present time. His property holdings embrace three hundred and twenty acres of valuable land in Macon county and he is widely recognized as a most substantial and representative citizen. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and he has ably served his fellow townsmen in several minor offices. Unto him and his wife, who passed away in 1904, were born eight children, as follows: S. E., who is a resident of Decatur; Charles, living in this county; Theodore A., of this review; Wilbert, who makes his home in Missouri; Mrs. Lucy Ferrell, of Macon county; and three who died in infancy.

Theodore A. Gardner, who was but three years of age when brought to Illinois by his parents, obtained his education in the schools of this state and has

resided within its borders continuously since. After putting aside his text-books he assisted his father in the operation of the home farm until twenty-one years of age. On attaining his majority he started out as an agriculturist on his own account, devoting his attention to the cultivation of rented land until 1887. In that year he brought eighty acres of land in Maroa township and has since made an additional purchase of forty acres, so that his farm now embraces one hundred and twenty acres. In connection with the tilling of the soil he also devotes considerable attention to stock-raising, which branch of his business adds materially to his income. He recently purchased an interest in the farm belonging to his mother-in-law and adjoining his home place.

In 1880 Mr. Gardner was united in marriage to Miss Julia Cooper, a daughter of Alexander and Elizabeth Cooper, who are mentioned at greater length on another page of this work. Mr. and Mrs. Gardner now have five children, namely: Earl, who was born in 1890; Josie, born in 1893; Paul, whose birth occurred in 1895; and Linnie and Albert, who were born in the years 1897 and 1900 respectively. They also adopted a daughter, Ina, who is now the wife of Robert Long, of Macon county.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Gardner has supported the men and measures of the republican party, believing that its principles are most conducive to good government. The cause of education has ever found in him a stanch champion and he has served as a school director. His fraternal relations are with the Knights of Pythias at Maroa, while religiously he is identified with the Methodist church. He has made an excellent record for upright manhood and honorable citizenship and may well be classed with the representative men of the community.

OLEY D. ASH.

Oley D. Ash, a progressive and prosperous farmer, is now engaged in operating a rented farm in Harristown township, and his well directed efforts are meeting with most gratifying success. His birth occurred on the 7th of April, 1875, in Harristown township, on the farm which is yet the family homestead and is a son of Josephus and Mary (Powell) Ash. The mother passed away in August, 1904, while the father still survives and resides on the old home farm.

Reared to farm life, the boyhood days of Oley D. Ash were spent under the parental roof, and he acquired a good education in the common schools near his father's home, which was later supplemented by a six months' course at Brown's Business College at Decatur, Illinois. He also received thorough training in farm work in the fields under his father's direction, and this practical experience, combined with good commercial training, served as an excellent preparation for the conduct of an independent business venture. He remained at home until twenty-one years of age, when he entered the business world on his own account as a renter, and has since carried on general agricultural pursuits in that capacity. At one time he rented both his father's and his father-in-law's

farms, and his efforts have been so successful and his interests so carefully managed that in 1910 he was able to purchase a farm of his own, consisting of one hundred and twenty acres in Hickory Point township. It is a valuable property, for which he paid one hundred and eighty-seven and a half dollars per acre and which is now returning to him good rental. He is progressive in his methods and close application and untiring industry are salient elements in his business career.

It was on the 25th of August, 1897, in Harristown, that Mr. Ash was united in marriage to Miss Norma A. Waldorf, who was born in Butler county, Ohio, August 28, 1877. She was a little maiden of six summers when she came to Harristown with her parents, George W. and Lucretia (Brady) Waldorf, and she acquired a good common-school education in the schools of that township. By her marriage she became the mother of two children: Harold Peyton, who was born April 25, 1902; and Wayne Waldorf, born April 21, 1904.

Mr. Ash gives his support to the republican party but has never desired nor sought public office as a reward for party fealty, preferring to concentrate his energies upon the conduct of his private business interests. He and his wife hold membership in the Christian church, in the work of which they are both deeply interested, the latter having served as Sunday school teacher for a number of years. Their many excellent traits of heart and mind have made them highly respected and esteemed in the community in which they resided, and they have a large circle of friends who greatly enjoy the warm hospitality of their home. Mr. Ash early learned the lesson that success must be purchased at the price of earnest, well defined labor, and as the years have gone by his record has been one of indefatigable effort, close application and intelligent direction.

TIMOTHY P. HARDBARGER.

The Civil war was a severe school for a young man in which to receive his introduction to the great world, and yet thousands of the leading citizens of the north and south wore the blue or the gray, and in the camp, on the march or on the battlefield, gained the lessons that nerved them for a successful career in the peaceful vocations of life. Among the men now living in Macon county who saw service on the firing line is Timothy P. Hardbarger. He was then just emerging from boyhood, being but seventeen years of age and one of the young soldiers of the Confederacy, but the impressions at that time made on his mind are as clear as if but of yesterday.

He first opened his eyes to the light of day in Roanoke county, Virginia, February 15, 1848, a son of Henry and Margaret (Kingry) Hardbarger. Henry Hardbarger was a native of Germany and came to America as a boy with his parents, who settled upon a plantation in Roanoke county. He participated as a soldier in the war of 1812. He was twice married and became the father of twenty-one children, the subject of this review being a child of the second marriage and ninth in order of birth in a family of eleven children. Three of his brothers were soldiers of the Confederacy and he himself having been

conscripted into the service, became a member of the Nineteenth Virginia Battalion of Light Artillery, which was stationed at the city of Richmond and participated in its defense. He continued in the army until the close of the war, his total period of serving being about twelve months. The state of Virginia suffered tremendously on account of the great armies which devastated it for four long years and even at the present time has scarcely recovered from the vast destruction of property which then took place.

The young soldier, after returning to his old home, decided to seek his fortune under more favorable surroundings, and in 1867 he came to Sangamon county, Illinois, and began to work by the month on a farm. In 1874, having in the meantime become married, he located in Christian county, but at the end of two years removed to Macon county, where he has since been successfully engaged in farming and stock-raising.

In 1869 Mr. Hardbarger returned to familiar scenes in Virginia and on November 12, 1873, was united in marriage to Miss Mary McFall, of Roanoke county. His wife accompanied him on his return westward the following year and has been to him in all the vicissitudes that have followed, a constant encouragement and a never-failing source of strength. Eight children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Hardbarger. Minnie, who married James Hacky, now resides in Logan county and is the mother of six children; Blanche, who became the wife of Herbert French, lives in Macon county and has four children; Bessie Maude, now residing in Arkansas, married Thomas Wilson and has four children; Oscar, the fourth member of the family, is employed by the month at farm labor; Clyde, who married Miss Lena Henderson, is living in Decatur and is the father of two children; Cleveland died at the age of twelve years; John married Grace Markwell; May became the wife of Charles Schott, of Harristown, this county.

Mr. and Mrs. Hardbarger are both consistent members of the Christian church and their home is noted for its hospitality and good cheer. He has all his life been a stanch democrat, but has found it necessary to devote his attention to his large family rather than to use his energies in the excitement of the political campaign. While laboring to become independent in life, he has not been unmindful of his duties as a good citizen, and, as the result of a kindness of heart and consideration for others, which are prominent characteristics in his career, he has always been accorded the respect and esteem of his neighbors and acquaintances.

JOHN FUNK.

Ohio has contributed to Illinois many of her sons who have assisted nobly in building up the permanent interests of the state and added greatly to the material prosperity. Among those who deserve honorable mention is John Funk who first saw the light of day on a farm in Hocking county, Ohio, and is now the fortunate owner of a well improved farm of two hundred and forty acres on sections 35 and 2, South Macon township, Macon county. On the paternal side he is a descendant of Teutonic ancestry, his great-grandfather

coming to America from Germany before the Revolutionary war and settling in Pennsylvania, at which time the country westward was largely unknown and occupied by Indians and a few adventurous white men who lived by hunting and trapping. The great-grandfather took an active part in the Revolutionary war and was captain of the company with which his three sons were connected. The two eldest were in the ranks and the next youngest son, being too young to be accepted as a volunteer, served as teamster, in which position he performed efficient service in behalf of the colonies. According to the story which has been handed down by the family, the great-grandfather had the honor of moving the household goods of George Washington and his family when the "father of his country" made the trip from Mount Vernon to the national capital to become the first president of the United States. It is said that the entire party at one of the resting points en route to the capital ate their dinner on a log, General Washington gracefully presiding as the host of the occasion. The great-grandfather was a minister of the Dunkard church and a man of considerable prominence in his day.

The parents of our subject, Abraham and Martha Funk, were natives of Ohio. The family emigrated to Illinois in 1863 and came to Macon county, where the father in 1864 bought the land which became the homestead. This was then raw prairie and required a great deal of labor to reduce it to productiveness. The father continued on the farm for many years and was actively engaged in agricultural pursuits, departing this life December 21, 1891, at the age of eighty-three. In 1865 he erected the family residence and also a commodious barn and since that time many improvements have been made, so that the farm has become one of the valuable properties of the township. The beloved mother was called to her final rest in the seventy-third year of her age, passing away January 22, 1885. Mr. and Mrs. Funk were typical of the men and women who form the basis of the republic and embody the elements that contribute most to the advancement and prosperity of our civilization. The father was a man of great industry, strong common sense and unimpeachable character. He was a good husband and a kind father and won the respect of the entire community of which he was an honored member for nearly thirty years.

The youngest in a family of ten children, John Funk was educated in the district schools and from his earliest recollection has been identified with the farm on which he was born. After the death of his father he purchased the interests of the other heirs and by the application of sound principles has been highly successful in his agricultural and stock-raising operations.

In 1878 Mr. Funk was united in marriage to Miss Adaline King, a daughter of Daniel and Elvira King, of Shelby county, this state, in whose family were nine children. She was born July 21, 1855. One son has come to bless the home of Mr. and Mrs. Funk, Rufus H., who was born November 3, 1883, and was married November 15, 1905, to Miss Nannie Black. She was born May 6, 1884, a daughter of Robert and Susanna E. Black, natives of Illinois and Ohio respectively.

Mr. Funk since arriving at voting age has exercised the right of casting his ballot independently of any party and therefore he votes according to the conditions or necessities of the times. He cast his first ballot for Peter Cooper

for president of the United States and is at present a strong advocate of prohibition, believing that one of the greatest dangers that threaten the country is the general use of alcoholic liquors. Mr. Funk inherited many of the traits of his father and has good business ability, a strong will and a stable character, the last being of great practical benefit to him on more than one occasion. His friends have found that he is straightforward, earnest and conscientious and may always be depended upon to do exactly as he promises. No higher commendation could be pronounced upon any man.

RICHARD E. OLIVER.

Among the valiant defenders of the Union in the Civil war who have attained deserved success as farmers in Macon county is Richard E. Oliver, whose farm burg, Sangamon county, Illinois, February 11, 1840, a son of Burrell and Maria is on section 19, Harristown township. He was born in the village of Mechanics-Oliver. His father was a distiller by occupation but he quit the business and removed to a farm where he engaged successfully as an agriculturist.

The subject of this review was educated in the common schools and assisted his father upon the farm, continuing there until twenty-one years of age, when in 1862 he proffered his services to his country and enlisted in Company H, Seventy-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, in which he served with great credit until the close of the war. He engaged in many battles, the first of which was at Perryville, Kentucky, while he was a new recruit, this being a severe test for a young soldier, but he soon learned to stand in the firing line and to participate boldly in the charge. He was in the battles of Stone River, Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, Atlanta, Lexington, Kentucky, and in many lesser engagements, learning lessons of patience and devotion to duty which have been of the greatest value to him during all the years that have elapsed since the close of the dreadful conflict. In June, 1865, he was honorably discharged from the service and, reentering the pursuits of peace, continued as a farmer in Sangamon county until he was twenty-seven years of age, when he came to Blue Mound township, Macon county, where he farmed for seventeen years. He next engaged upon a farm north of Niantic, continuing for twelve years, and on March 27, 1898, removed to his present home. He has brought his farm to a high state of cultivation and occupies a comfortable, well appointed residence which, with the evidences of foresight and good judgment to be seen in other parts of the farm, is a fair index of the thoughtful attention he bestows upon his business.

On May 9, 1867, at Decatur, this state, Mr. Oliver was united in marriage to Miss Mary Jane Kitch, a daughter of Frederick and Sarah Jane (Ryan) Kitch. Three children have blessed their union: Lewis Edward, who was married in Harristown, March 12, 1906, to Miss Eva Miller, of Niantic township, and is the father of two children, Margaret Rebecca and Helen; Pierce M., who married Maggie Gumner and is the father of three children, Verne, Clarence and Hallie A.; Robert E., who married Miss Rose Warburton, of Harristown township, and has three children, Merle, Dorothy and Robert.

On September 21, 1908, the angel of death visited the household and called away the beloved wife and mother who for forty-one years had been an inspiration and support to her husband. Her remains were interred in Long Point cemetery. She was an earnest and sincere follower of the great Master and an active member of the Christian church. Mr. Oliver holds membership in the same church and is a charter member of the Modern Woodmen of America, of Harristown. Politically he is identified with the republican party and cast his first ballot in 1868 for U. S. Grant for president of the United States. His sons are supporters of the same party. Mr. Oliver has never aspired to public office but served for nine years with great acceptance to the entire community upon the board of school directors. As a faithful soldier he gained an education not laid down in the curriculum of any school or college—an education which has been one of the controlling elements of his life. It taught him courage, fidelity to every trust, confidence in the success of any worthy undertaking and gave him an insight into human nature which is so important in interpreting the actions of others. As an upright citizen Mr. Oliver has creditably performed his part and he is justly held in high esteem by all who know him.

SAMUEL HUGH PROCTOR.

It would be difficult to name any branch of business pertaining to the farm that is of more importance to the permanency of agricultural interests than the breeding of live-stock. The improvement of the breed, whether of horses, cattle, sheep or hogs, is one of the great studies of modern times—in fact it marks an era in civilization, for it has been observed that as civilization moves forward, the higher bred farm animals come into evidence, and never was this fact more evident than in the first decade of the twentieth century. Among the successful breeders of horses in Macon county is Samuel H. Proctor, the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this review.

His eyes first opened to the light of day in this county, May, 10, 1868. He is a son of Hugh and Dorcas (Smith) Proctor, the former a native of Lancashire county, England, and the latter of Belleville, Illinois, where she was born in 1826. Hugh Proctor, at ten years of age came to America with his parents, who settled in Monroe county, this state. At the age of sixteen he was deprived of both parents by death. This was indeed a heavy blow and at first almost overwhelming, but at that time he was young and the world looked bright and cheerful. He succeeded in finding a friend in a farmer of Monroe county and he made his home with him for five years, at the end of which time, having reached manhood, his friend presented him with a horse, bridle and saddle as a capital with which to begin life for himself. After a few years he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of unimproved land, which he cleared himself, and turned his attention to the breeding and rearing of Green Mountain Morgan horses, which he exhibited at fairs in different parts of the state and which won for him many prizes. In 1865 Mr. Proctor came to Macon county and purchased two hundred and forty acres of land which became the family homestead, and

there he carried on general farming and stock-raising until he retired to Decatur in 1893. Mr. Proctor, as a result of his study of social and political conditions, became a prohibitionist thirty years ago and always adhered strictly to that party. There were twelve children in his family, the subject of this review being the eleventh in order of birth.

Samuel H. Proctor was reared upon the farm and received his education in the common schools, remaining at home until 1893, when he went to Kansas, where he lived for three years and engaged in buying and feeding live stock and in breeding race horses and pure bred cattle. In 1896 he returned to Macon county and lived for two years on a farm formerly occupied by his grandfather, at the end of which time he went to Crowley, Louisiana, and engaged in rice farming, operating four hundred acres for fourteen months. However, he came to the conclusion that Macon county presented more favorable inducements than he had seen elsewhere and he once more returned to his native county and has since lived upon his father's farm. Here he has charge of three hundred and twenty acres of land and is engaged in breeding standard bred horses and has attained the success to which he is entitled, having given the subject many years of study, so that the beautiful animals raised under his supervision represent in an important degree the result of the most careful thought along scientific lines.

In 1895 Mr. Proctor was united in marriage to Miss Ada L. Miller, a daughter of John and Charlotte Miller of this state. She was born in 1877 and was the third child of the family of five children. Mrs. Proctor departed this life May 29, 1908. She was a member of the Presbyterian church of Shady Grove and a woman of most estimable character, a faithful wife and a devoted mother, whose memory is reverenced by all who knew her. She was the mother of two children: Charlotte Dorcas, born December 27, 1896; and Hugh Miller, born April 26, 1903.

Mr. Proctor is a supporter of the democratic party, believing that the principles of this party represent in a higher degree than those of any other, the teachings upon which the American republic is founded. He is a public-spirited man and always favors reasonable plans for the advancement of the township or county, recognizing that eternal vigilance is as necessary in local affairs as in national.

CLINTON W. HIGGINS.

Clinton W. Higgins, who is a well known and highly respected citizen of Niantic, Illinois, was born in the village of Burlington, near Cincinnati, Ohio August 29, 1851, a son of William and Maria (Randall) Higgins. The father was a carpenter and a native of Cincinnati and the mother was born in the same house in which our subject first opened his eyes to the light of day. About 1854 the family removed to Rockport, Indiana, where the father soon afterward died, leaving a wife and two children, a son and daughter. The latter grew to maturity and departed this life at the age of twenty-one years. In 1858 the

mother took up her residence at Bethel, Morgan county, this state, where she had a brother who built her a residence. However, after about a year's residence in this county she was married to James Mansfield and four children were born to them, two of whom, James and Clara Luella, died in infancy. Nelson A. Mansfield, who was born March 30, 1861, was educated in the common schools and began early as a farmer upon rented land. At the age of nineteen he was married to Miss Catharine Dingman. He was identified with the mercantile business as a clerk for some years, but later became a landowner in Niantic township and finally entered the grain business, in which he accumulated considerable wealth. He also became interested in the grain elevator business and was one of the successful men in the community. Accompanied by his wife and two friends, Mr. Farris and his son, he was riding in an automobile when the vehicle was struck by an interurban electric car and Mrs. Mansfield was instantly killed, while her husband was injured so seriously that he died three days later. Charles A. Mansfield was also born in Morgan county and educated in the common schools. He came with his mother to Macon county in 1878, the father having died before this time, and here he engaged with marked success in agricultural pursuits and became the owner of a farm of one hundred and twenty-two acres in Niantic township. He was never married and departed this life at the age of thirty-one. The stepfather of our subject had been married previous to his union with Mrs. Higgins. His first wife was a Miss McDaniel and she was the mother of five children: William H., who died at the age of forty-five or fifty years; Alexander, who married Miss Kate Goodpaster and became quite wealthy, dying at Pueblo, Colorado; Susan Jane, now Mrs. C. H. Finson; Sarah E., deceased; and Melissa E., the wife of J. E. York, of Springfield, Illinois.

Clinton W. Higgins came to Morgan county with his mother after her second marriage and here he was educated in the public schools, and at seventeen began working for himself. After arriving at twenty-one or twenty-two years of age he left the farm and began working in shops and also in the railway service.

On August 28, 1894, in Wills county, Illinois, where he was working at the time, Mr. Higgins married Miss Nancy E. Noel, who was born in Effingham county, Illinois, a daughter of Paul and Sarah (Rowlands) Noel. Her parents came to Champaign county during her infancy and later moved to Chicago, but finally settled in Piatt county, Illinois, where they continued until their death. Soon after his marriage Mr. Higgins came to Niantic township, where he lived for a few months and then removed to Decatur. He became an employe of Pratt & Company, but has since returned to Niantic, where he now resides. The mother of Mr. Higgins departed this life at his home August 12, 1908, having reached the advanced age of eighty-three years. She was a woman possessing many excellent qualities that greatly endeared her to her children and friends.

Mr. Higgins and his wife were reared in the faith of the Christian church, in which she has long held membership, but of which he did not become a member until 1909, since which time he has been an active worker, lending his assistance to every good cause with which the church is identified. He has been a lifelong democrat and is a stanch supporter of the party, accepting its principles as the

best basis yet enunciated for the perpetuation of the republic. He is a valued member of Niantic Lodge, No. 318, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and has filled all the chairs in this lodge, and among the brethren as well as in the community generally, he has many friends who are acquainted with his honorable career and esteem him as one of the useful and worthy citizens of this region.

WILLIAM JOSTES.

The owner of two hundred and forty acres of good Macon county land, William Jostes may justly be designated among the prosperous citizens of Illinois. He was born in Blue Mound township, this county, September 28, 1869, and is a son of Henry and Julia (Shoop) Jostes. The father was born in Hanover, Germany, in March, 1838, and came to this country, settling in Macon county, Illinois, where he was for many years closely identified with farming interests. He was a valiant soldier of the Union at the time of the Civil war, serving in the Forty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry until after the surrender of General Lee. The mother was born in Macon county in 1841 surrounded by pioneer conditions. She was educated in a rude log schoolhouse and in her childhood was often awakened from sleep by the howling of wolves in the neighboring forest. There were nine children in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Jostes, of whom the following are now living: Emma, the wife of William Fedderman, of Shelby county, this state; William, our subject; Mary, the wife of Richard Dorsey, of Christian county; Frederick, of Pleasant View township, Macon county; Lena, the wife of Frank Phillips, of Macon; and Lilly and Effie, at home.

William Jostes was educated in the common schools and remained upon the home farm where he assisted his father, later renting land from the latter, a sister keeping house for him for one year. At twenty-five years of age, he was married and settled on a farm in Pleasant View township, which he rented for fifteen years. In 1909 he purchased his present place on section 26, Pleasant View township, where he carries on general farming and stock-raising. He is one of the large corn growers of the county. He cultivates the land according to modern ideas and his farm is known as one of the best managed places in Macon county, the annual harvests yielding abundant returns for the time and labor expended.

On the 5th of June, 1894, Mr. Jostes was united in marriage to Miss Flora Bowman, who was born in Miami county, Indiana, January 24, 1864, a daughter of Andrew and Frederica (Manecke) Bowman. Her father was born in Stark county, Ohio, in 1836, and her mother in the same state in 1840. They settled in Macon county in 1868 and are now making their home in Decatur. To them were born nine children, seven of whom are now living: Flora, now Mrs. Jostes; Ida, the wife of Melville Boyer, of Macon county; Emma, now Mrs. George Fisher, of Decatur; Olive, the wife of Charles Borchers, of Decatur; Leona and William, of Decatur; and Myrtle, now the wife of Reverdy Miller, who lives in Macon county. Six of the Bowman sisters taught school,

Flora having had ten years' experience as a teacher in the schools of Macon county; Emma taught in Macon and De Witt counties for three years; Ida, in Piatt and Macon counties for five years, Myrtle, in Macon county for five years; and Leona and Alice for sixteen years in Macon county. Miss Leona Bowman is at present county superintendent of this county and is recognized as one of the most talented teachers of the state. Charles Borchers, a brother-in-law of Mrs. Jostes, is serving as mayor of Decatur. William Manecke, her uncle on the maternal side, enlisted in an Ohio regiment at the time of the Civil war. Reverdy Miller, a brother-in-law, participated in the Spanish-American war, and John Roller, an uncle of our subject, was a soldier in the Civil war and was confined in Andersonville prison. He is now living in Shelby county, this state. Two children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Jostes, Leona Helen, born April 20, 1899; and Beatrice Myrtle, born August 28, 1901.

Mr. Jostes by his genial and pleasing manner has attracted many warm friends, and he and his estimable wife are prime favorites in the community. He is recognized as a wide-awake, capable, progressive and generous man who as the head of an interesting family or as a business man or citizen is always equal to any emergency and is in every respect a worthy representative of farming interests.

MRS. KATE E. CLARK.

Mrs. Kate E. Clark, who is now living on the family homestead in Decatur township, this county, is a native of Macon county, born in Decatur, April 30, 1857. She is a daughter of John and Catherine Collins, who were both natives of Ireland and came to Illinois in the fall of 1856, locating in Decatur. The father entered the service of the Illinois Central Railroad and continued so faithfully that he was in the employ of the road until a few years before his death, which occurred in his eighty-third year. The mother departed this life in 1893 at the age of sixty-eight years. Their lives of industry and sincerity gained for them the unqualified respect of their friends and neighbors.

Mrs. Clark is the fourth in order of birth in a family of eleven children. She was educated in the public schools of Decatur, completing her training at the Convent of St. Theresa, her parents being devout Catholics. In 1874 she was happily united in marriage to Michael Clark, a son of Michael and Ellen Clark, of Ohio, who came to Decatur in 1861. The father enlisted in the cause of the Union during the Civil war and lost his life from disease contracted in the service, never returning home.

Michael Clark, Jr., was born in 1854 and educated in the public schools, becoming an engineer upon the Wabash Railroad. In 1886 he took up his residence on a farm in Decatur township, which he inherited from his mother, and where he engaged in general farming until his death, which occurred in June, 1903. He was a stanch advocate of the democratic party and a strong believer in the teachings of the Catholic church. Mr. Clark was a man of noble characteristics and made many friends who sincerely regretted his departure at the time when

he was in the height of his career, giving every evidence, if he had been spared, of many years of added usefulness.

Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Clark: Nellie, who was born October 6, 1875, and is now living at home; Laura, born August 30, 1877, who was married, April 22, 1902, to William Bowman of Oakley, a carpenter by trade and is now living at Decatur; John, born February 17, 1883, who married, June 7, 1905, Norah Schultz of Decatur, and is now a dairyman living in Macon county; William, who was born July 6, 1885, and is living at home; Mabel, born January 26, 1888, who married Louis Garver of Decatur, February 8, 1910, and is living in Whitmore township; and Ruby, who was born December 5, 1894, and is living at home.

Mrs. Clark and her son William are operating the home farm and are meeting with success, bringing to bear principles of industry and good judgment that result in success in any legitimate undertaking. Mrs. Clark stands high in the regard of her neighbors, who have always found her to be kind and obliging, generously assisting in any laudable undertaking to advance the permanent interests of the community.

JOHN WASHBURN.

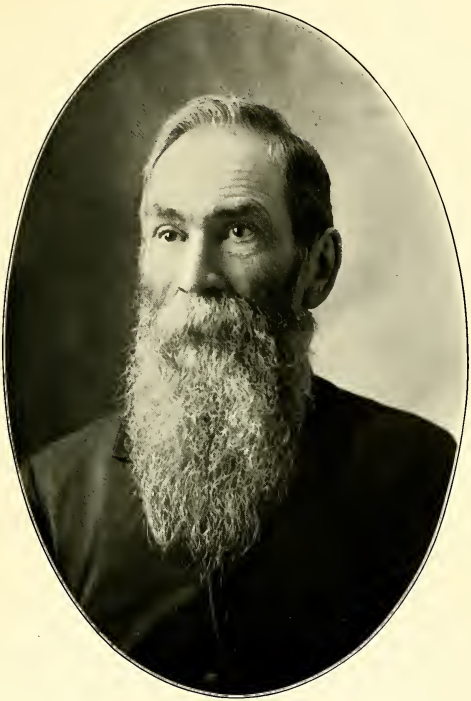
All Decatur knows and respects John Washburn, who since 1855 has been identified with mercantile interests in this city. He came here when Decatur was a village and with its upbuilding and improvement has been closely associated, contributing at all times to its progress and advancement. His life has indeed been honorable and worthy of emulation, and although he is now eighty-one years of age he still remains a factor in the world's work, being proprietor of one of the oldest established mercantile enterprises of the city.

His birth occurred in Lyme, Grafton county, New Hampshire, June 1, 1829, his parents being John and Sarah (Tucker) Washburn, the latter a granddaughter of one of the soldiers who fought under the immediate command of General George Washington from the beginning until the close of the Revolutionary war. He was a member of a Massachusetts regiment and participated in the battle of Bunker Hill. He was also one of the famous Boston tea party and aided in throwing the tea overboard into the sea, thus showing open resistance to the tea tax. John Washburn remembers the stories which his grandfather told concerning the Revolutionary war and of hearing him sing the old song of the British soldiers, the tenor of which was:

"Indian pudding and pumpkin pie;
Hurrah! how that will make the Yankees fly."

Three brothers named Washburn were founders of the family in the new world. They left England on one of the old time sailing vessels and settled at Bridgeport, Massachusetts, near Boston, arriving soon after the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers. For generations representatives of the name lived and died there. The old home place was in possession of the family for one hundred and forty years but changed ownership about a year ago.

John Washburn, the father of him whose name introduces this review, was born June 29, 1795, and died January 6, 1872. He was a New Hampshire



JOHN WASHBURN

farmer, devoting his entire life to general agricultural pursuits. His wife, who was born September 13, 1794, died January 9, 1874. The family is noted for longevity. A sister of Mr. Washburn, Mrs. Mary E. Richardson, is living in Westfield, Massachusetts, at the age of eighty-three years, and a cousin and other relatives of the family remain residents of the eastern states. A brother, Benjamin T. Washburn, was born July 6, 1832, and died June 11, 1908. John Sloan, a great-uncle of Mr. Washburn, on the paternal side, died in June, 1824, at the remarkable old age of ninety-six years, while his wife, Esther, passed away in December, 1828, also ninety-six years of age. These were the first white settlers of Lyme, New Hampshire.

John Washburn pursued his education in the district schools of his native city until twenty years of age and during that period also assisted his father in the operation of the home farm. Later he removed to Newark, Ohio, where he engaged in teaching school for three terms and also spent one term as a teacher near Oberlin, Ohio, but thinking to find commercial pursuits more congenial and profitable, he became connected with mercantile interests at Newark, where he remained until 1855, when he came to Decatur, Illinois, which at that time was little more than a cross-roads village. There were no paved streets, only a few dwellings and a very limited number of business houses. Mr. Washburn secured a stock of merchandise, opened a store and has since been connected with the city. He has occupied the same store room for forty years and this is one of the oldest established mercantile enterprises of Decatur. The store is located at No. 219 South Park street and he resides at No. 249 West William street.

In Decatur, in 1867, Mr. Washburn was united in marriage to Zarilda A. Emmons, a widow with two children, Emma Elizabeth, aged fourteen, who died in December, 1885; and Eddie, aged six, who died in December, 1877. Mrs. Washburn passed away in March, 1879. In politics he is independent, voting rather for men and measures than for party. He is an enthusiastic and zealous member of the Decatur Retail Grocers Association and also has the welfare and progress of the city at heart. He has been a successful merchant but is entirely free from ostentation and display. He is remarkably well preserved for one of his years and has but recently returned from a trip to the east, visiting Ohio and his old home in New Hampshire, where his ancestors were among the makers of history, leaving their impress for good upon the development and progress of that section of the country. Decatur citizens, having long known Mr. Washburn, would regard no work of this character complete without mention of his life, and he has indeed been a most prominent factor in the commercial circles of the city.

JOSEPH AUSTIN.

Illinois owes its high standing among the states very largely to its early settlers and their descendants. Among these men and women have been found some of the noblest characters of which there is any record, and the splendid work they have accomplished is an enduring monument to their worth. Joseph Austin, a well known farmer of Blue Mound township, belongs to one of the pioneer families, and may himself be classed as a pioneer. He was born in

Macon county October 31, 1837, and is a son of William A. and Ellen (Wornick) Austin. The father was a native of Amherst county, Virginia, where he was born April 28, 1806. He came to Illinois in 1828, when he was twenty-two years of age, and lived in this state sixty-four years, being called away in 1892. He became a leader in Macon county and was justice of the peace of his township for forty years. The mother was born in Tennessee in 1816, and came to Illinois with her parents in 1825, the family locating in Macon county when there were only three or four settlers in this region. Benjamin Austin, an uncle of our subject, was the first justice of the peace in Decatur, and it was from his office that Abraham Lincoln borrowed the books that developed his taste for the study of law. In another part of this work it is related that Mr. Lincoln had his feet frostbitten while visiting Miss Wornick, an aunt of our subject. Grandfather Austin was reputed to be one of the courageous men of the early times, and often declared that he could whip every Indian on the Sangamon river, while Grandfather Wornick was one of the fighters in the Black Hawk war. Unto William A. and Ellen Austin twelve children were born, four of whom are now living: Joseph, our subject; Benjamin, of Christian county; Lewis, of Missouri; and Thomas, of Blue Mound township. By his second marriage to Mrs. Sarah Augusta Dudley, William A. Austin had six children, of whom five are still living: Mrs. Thomas Stevens of Idaho; Samuel of Chicago; Wallace, of Seattle, Washington; James, of Kansas; and Mrs. Farris Rosengrant, of Kansas. Mrs. Austin passed away in 1894.

The subject of this review received his education in the early subscription schools and suffered many of the privations of pioneer life. At the age of fifteen he began breaking the prairie with an ox team, continuing upon the home farm until he was thirty years of age, when he began farming upon his own account in Blue Mound township, and for twenty-two years past has lived at his present home where he carries on general farming, also working as a carpenter and blacksmith. He has always been industrious, and in the course of many years has built up an enviable reputation as a useful and unselfish member of the community.

On the 24th day of October, 1867, Mr. Austin was united in marriage to Miss Martha Ellen Abbott, who was born in Macon county in 1847, a daughter of Henry and Martha Abbott. Her parents were born and reared in Ohio and were early settlers of Macon county. Six children of the family grew to maturity: Martha Ellen, herein mentioned; Josiah, of Arkansas; George, of Blue Mound township; Sarah Ann, the widow of Amos Walker, and now living in Missouri; Elizabeth, the wife of William Bradley, of Decatur; and Catherine, of St. Louis. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Austin was brightened by the arrival of seven children, five of whom are deceased. The others are: Elizabeth, who married Henry Bough, of Blue Mound township, and is the mother of seven children, Raleigh, William, Fred, John, Vergil, Minnie and Flossie; and Minnie, who married William Maybe, of Decatur, and became the mother of one child, who married Oliver Patterson of Decatur. Mrs. Austin having been called away in March, 1880, Mr. Austin was married September 23, 1886, to Mrs. Virginia Stevens Owen, who was born in Decatur September 22, 1860, a daughter of Francis Marion and Margaret Ann (Walker) Stevens. Her

father was born in Macon county in 1834 and died in 1892. The mother was also born in Macon county in 1837, and departed this life thirty-six years ago. There were nine children in their family, five of whom are living: Mary E., the wife of Rudolph Schiefer, of Chicago; Virginia, now Mrs. Austin; Lora Belle, the wife of John Wornick, living near Mount Auburn, Illinois; Emma, the wife of Irvin Hill, of Missouri; and Hattie, now Mrs. Scott Wornick, of Boody, Illinois. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Austin, six of whom are living: Elsie Ethel, born June 30, 1889, who married Frank Russell and is the mother of two children, Laura Virginia and Robert Harold; Lelah Augusta, born December 30, 1891; Joseph Stephen, born July 10, 1893; Polly Ann, born March 22, 1895; Ruby Dillard, born December 28, 1897; and Thomas Everett, born January 25, 1900, all of whom are now at home except Elsie Ethel. By her first husband Mrs. Austin became the mother of one son, Francis Walter Owen, born November 26, 1879. He married Lona Ogden and lives at Galesburg, Illinois. The paternal great-grandfather of Mrs. Austin was the first settler of Macon county and Stevens Creek was named for him. Mr. and Mrs. Austin had many relatives in the Civil war, her father serving through the entire war in the Forty-first Illinois Infantry. William Henry and James Milton Stevens were also valiant soldiers and Robert Wornick wore the shoulder straps of a lieutenant.

Mr. Austin is identified with the democratic party and has held the office of road superintendent in his district. He and his wife are valued members of the Methodist church. He is a self-made man, having worked his way up through his own energy and perseverance, and he understands the difficulties that must be overcome by one who starts at the bottom of the ladder. He and his wife are enjoying the ease and comfort that are the results of well applied effort and they have many friends, young and old, who are bound to them by the ties of sympathy which true worth attracts.

SAMUEL HEINLE.

Actively connected with the public interests of Macon county through his service as a member of the board of county supervisors, representing Friends Creek township, Samuel Heinle is also well known as a representative and progressive farmer whose time and energies are given to the cultivation and development of what is now a well improved and valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 2. It was in this township that he was born on the 23d of May, 1872, his parents being George L. and Fredricka (Ehman) Heinle, both of whom were natives of Germany.

The father was reared to the aged of nineteen years in that country and then bade adieu to friends and native land preparatory to sailing for the new world, hoping that he might have better advantages and opportunities for business success than were accorded him on the east side of the Atlantic. He settled first in Crawford county, Ohio, where he secured employment as a farm hand, and while there living he married Miss Ehman, who was one of his countrywomen. Soon after their marriage they removed westward to Illinois, settling

in Macon county, where Mr. Heinle purchased a forty-acre tract of land on which a log cabin had been built although few other improvements had been made. The arduous task of converting the land into productive fields lay before him but he resolutely took up the work and as the years went by his labors brought him substantial success, so that he was able to buy more land from time to time. His investments were made most judiciously and he eventually became the owner of seven hundred and twenty-six acres. He was one of the well known and prosperous farmers of the county and made for himself a creditable position in public regard not only by reason of his success but also owing to the straightforward and honorable business methods which he ever followed. He filled the office of road commissioner for a time and was ever mindful of his duties of citizenship. Although he started out a poor man among entire strangers, he achieved both fortune and an honored name. His death occurred in this county July 18, 1899, while his wife passed away in 1895. Their family numbered five sons and three daughters: Fred, Samuel, Louis, Williams, Charlie, Kate, Paulena and Lizzie. Four of the sons are represented in this volume.

Samuel Heinle, whose name introduces this review, was reared on the old home farm, continuing with his father until the latter's death, after which he and his brothers conducted the place until the estate was divided. On December 20, 1899, he was united in marriage to Miss Addie M. Hollingsworth, a native of Warren county, Ohio, where her girlhood days were passed and whence she came to Illinois when a young lady of eighteen years. Her father, E. Hollingsworth, died in the Buckeye state. Mr. and Mrs. Heinle began housekeeping upon the farm that is now his home. It then comprised an eighty tract of land upon which slight improvements had been made. There was a small house upon the place and an old barn. He at once began to repair the buildings and to cultivate the fields and when his labors brought him substantial financial returns he erected a commodious and attractive residence, also a large barn, cribs and other outbuildings. He likewise introduced the latest improved machinery to facilitate the work of the fields and continued to engage actively in farming until 1908, when he rented his land and removed to Otero county, Colorado, settling near Ordway in the beet, cantaloupe and alfalfa district. There he purchased one hundred and twenty acres and began the cultivation of the place. He remained in the west for only ten months, however, for, becoming ill, he returned to his old home in Illinois but still retains the ownership of his Colorado property. In connection with his farming interests in Macon county he raised and fed hogs. He also bought another tract of eighty acres of land and won recognition as one of the most progressive agriculturists of the community.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Heinle have been born four children who are yet living, Edith Florene, Harold Samuel, Elsie Louise and Leona Pauline. They also lost a son Ernest Lee, who was the twin brother of Elsie and died at the age of four months. Mr. Heinle exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the democratic party and has served as highway commissioner for two years, resigning that office ere his removal to the west. In the spring of 1910 he was elected supervisor of Friends Creek township on the democrat ticket by a good majority and is now taking a part in the deliberations of the board

which has charge of the county affairs. He belongs to the United Brethren church at Shiloh and is a Master Mason, holding membership in Argenta lodge, A. F. & A. M. He has always been a man of progressive spirit. This was manifest in the manner in which he cultivated his farm and added to it all modern improvements. He is now the owner of a fine passenger Columbia automobile. His life work, intelligently directed, has gained him place with the substantial and representative citizens of the county and his individual worth in Friends Creek township is widely acknowledged by those among he has long lived and who can best judge of his strongest characteristics.

JEREMIAH P. NICHOLSON.

Jeremiah P. Nicholson, who is now serving as sheriff of Macon county, has made his home here for almost six decades and has long borne an enviable reputation as a prominent and respected citizen. His birth occurred in Garrard county, Kentucky, on the 10th of March, 1840, his parents being John and Julia N. (Underwood) Nicholson, who were likewise natives of that place. The paternal grandfather, James Nicholson, who was also born in the Blue Grass state, served as a soldier in the Revolutionary war. The male representatives of the family have for generations followed farming as a life work. John Nicholson, the father of our subject, was one of four brothers who came to Macon county from Kentucky, taking up his abode in Wheatland township in 1852, and turning his attention to general agricultural pursuits. Unto him and his wife were born twelve children—six sons and six daughters. All are now deceased, with the exception of the following named: Jeremiah P., of this review; Mary Jane, the widow of James Durning, who resides in Mount Zion, this county, at the age of eighty-one years; Charles S., living in the state of Washington; John, who makes his home in Missouri; and Robert, of Indiana.

Jeremiah P. Nicholson was a youth of twelve when he came to Macon county with his parents, and in the acquirement of an education attended the country schools for a few years. His advantages in this direction were limited because of the fact that his father was in straitened financial circumstances, and early in life he was obliged to assist in the support of the family. He aided his father in the work of the fields, and was later employed as a farm hand by others, his wages helping to defray the living expenses of his father's family. The clothes that they wore were spun by the mother of wool that was obtained from sheep which the father raised.

In 1861, his patriotic spirit being aroused by the attempt of the south to overthrow the Union, Mr. Nicholson enlisted in the Eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, serving for three years or until honorably discharged. He was married in 1866 and began farming on his own account, being actively and successfully identified with agricultural pursuits until 1889. In connection with the tilling of the soil, he also devoted considerable attention to the feeding of cattle and the buying and selling of horses, meeting with excellent results in both branches of his business. In 1889 he abandoned the work of the farm and took up his abode in Decatur, where he was engaged in the livery business for

about two years, while during the following two years he was identified with mercantile interests as a dealer in farm implements. In 1894 he was elected sheriff and served for four years. Subsequently he acted as superintendent of streets for several years, and then once more embarked in the livery business, conducting what is now the Lindsay barn on West Wood street. In 1906 he entered the sheriff's office as deputy under B. A. McGorry, acting in that capacity until the fall of 1910, when he was again elected sheriff of Macon county. He owns a fine home at No. 430 West Decatur street, but after his election took up his residence in the county jail. He is in every way well fitted to discharge most satisfactorily the duties devolving upon him as sheriff, and also to care for the prisoners in his charge.

On the 26th of January, 1866, Mr. Nicholson was united in marriage to Miss Catherine A. Wallace, a daughter of Robert Wallace, of Long Creek township, Macon county. The record of their children is as follows: Mina, at home; William H., a resident of Decatur, of whom extended mention is made on another page of this work; Julia A., who is yet under the parental roof; I. C., of Decatur; Robert A., who makes his home in Texas; and C. C. and Lester B., both living in Decatur.

Mr. Nicholson is a republican in politics, and has always been an active worker in the local ranks of the party. He served as supervisor of Long Creek and Mount Zion townships for several years, and for many years held the office of road commissioner. He and his family are members of the Presbyterian church, and he also belongs to Beaumanoir Commandery, No. 21, and Dunham Post, G. A. R., of Decatur. Mr. Nicholson has passed the Psalmist's allotted span of three score years and ten and receives the veneration and esteem which should ever be accorded one who has traveled thus far on life's journey, and whose career has been at all times upright and honorable.

W. A. MELTON, M. D.

Diligence and determination as the accompaniments of strong native intelligence can always win success whether in commercial or professional lines, and it is these qualities that have gained Dr. Melton a creditable and enviable place as a member of the medical fraternity in Macon county. He is located in Warrensburg where he has built up a good practice, coming to him in recognition of his energy and ability in the field of his chosen calling. Kansas numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred in Burlingame on the 10th of February, 1863. His parents were W. A. and Oxiana (Beckes) Melton, the former a farmer and mechanic who at one time was a resident of Knox county, Indiana, whence he removed to Kansas and is still living at the age of seventy-two years. In 1893 he removed to Oklahoma where he took up land and still resides in that state. At the time of the Civil war he responded to the country's call for aid, joining the Second Kansas Cavalry, with which he served as a private throughout the period of hostilities, taking part in a number of important battles as well as in the long hard marches and in the dreary waiting

in winter quarters. He never faltered in the performance of a military duty, however, and with a creditable record returned to his home.

Dr. W. A. Melton, reared under the parental roof in Kansas, pursued his education in the common schools of that state and in a private school, after which he entered upon preparation for the practice of medicine, pursuing his professional course in the medical department of the Northwestern University of Chicago. He was graduated in 1896 and soon afterward located in Warrensburg, where for more than fourteen years he has now successfully engaged in practice, his ability being manifest in the prompt manner in which he relieves suffering and checks the ravages of disease. He is very careful in the diagnosis of a case and most conscientious in his professional service. In early manhood he taught school for seven years, this aiding him in pursuing his medical course.

In April, 1898, occurred the marriage of Dr. Melton to Miss Olive Lehem, who is now deceased. For his second wife he chose Miss Helen S. Aikman, whom he wedded in 1904, and they are now the parents of a daughter and two sons, Viola W., William D. and Robert B. Dr. and Mrs. Melton have many friends in Warrensburg but while he is appreciative of the social amenities of life his attention is chiefly given to his professional duties and he keeps in touch with the onward march of the profession and holds membership in the state medical society and the American Medical Association as well as the local society. Moreover his reading of the medical journals and the best literature of the profession adds much to his knowledge and ability and has promoted his proficiency in no uncertain manner. His practice is now extensive and of an important character.

W. L. JOHNS.

W. L. Johns, a popular merchant of Boody, Illinois, comes of good pioneer stock and was born in Macon county, April 6, 1862. He is a son of Adolph and Charlotte (Sutman) Johns, both of whom were born in Germany in 1832. They came to America in 1853 and settled in Macon county, where the father engaged in farming until his death, which occurred in 1867. He was buried in Tyler cemetery. The mother departed this life in 1901. There were eight children in their family, six of whom are now living: Lottie, the wife of Otto Trummer, of Iowa; Frederick, of Kansas; Mary, the wife of Fred Pistorius, of Blue Mound township, Macon county; Elizabeth, now Mrs. William Niedermeyer, of Decatur; Adolph August, of Pekin, Illinois; and W. L., our subject.

Educated in the public schools of Macon county, W. L. Johns was reared as a farmer boy and at thirteen years of age began working by the month, so continuing for fifteen years. In the course of this time he became thoroughly familiar with all kinds of farm work and, having married at the age of twenty-eight, he settled on the home place, three and one-half miles southwest of Boody, where he lived for twelve years. However, he was attracted to mercantile pursuits and in 1902 he removed to Boody, where he opened a general store,

which he has conducted very successfully, carrying a well selected stock of dry goods, groceries, hardware, paints and oils, clothing, hats and caps, etc. Being a man of pleasing address, he has attracted patrons from a wide region in his part of the county and is recognized as one of its prosperous and growing business men.

On the 16th of December, 1890, Mr. Johns was united in marriage to Miss Lena Moss, who was born in Macon county in 1873. She is a daughter of Peter and Rosa (Schupe) Moss, the former of whom was born in Germany and the latter in Macon county. They are now living in Pleasant View township. There were two children in their family: Lena, and Lewis, of Moweaqua, Illinois. Six children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Johns: Benjamin Earl, born March 1, 1892; Ralph, April 8, 1895; Raymond, April 4, 1897; Virgie, October 11, 1899; Vera, March 14, 1901; and Dale, November 11, 1906.

Mr. Johns is a stanch advocate of the republican party and has served in a number of public offices, discharging his duties in such a way as to meet the approval of citizens irrespective of party. He filled the office of road commissioner for three years, tax collector for one year and is now a member of the school board. Socially he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America. He and his wife are both valued members of the United Brethren church, of which Mrs. Johns is one of the stewards and Mr. Johns is trustee and also treasurer of the board of trustees and of the Sunday school. The head of a promising family and also of a flourishing mercantile business, he has no reason to regret his venture eight years ago when he located in Boody. He belongs to that class of citizens who take pleasure in assisting others and who are interested in the permanent welfare of all with whom they are identified. It is such men who stand at the helm and are responsible for the progress everywhere visible in the American republic. Mr. Johns and his estimable wife by their worthy qualities have attracted many friends who are found among the best people of Macon county.

FERDINAND H. PISTORIUS.

Of stanch German ancestry, Ferdinand H. Pistorius, a well known farmer of Blue Mound township, was born in the township where he now lives September 23, 1867. He is a son of John and Caroline (Miller) Pistorius, both of whom were natives of Germany, the father having been born in 1832 and the mother two years later. John Pistorius came to America when he was about eighteen years of age and settled in Macon county. He started out as a poor boy to make his way against the obstacles of the world, beginning as a farm hand and later was employed as a railroad laborer. He saved his money and bought land when it was cheap, acquiring about a thousand acres in Macon county, so that he was able to give each of his children a farm when they were ready to begin life upon their own account. He was an intelligent and clear-headed business man and became very prominent in the community, serving for

many years as steward of the German Methodist church and as superintendent of the Sunday school. He also served as local preacher of that church. He departed this life June 23, 1910, and is buried in Blue Mound township. The mother died September 16, 1910. There were ten children in the family, eight of whom still survive: John, a resident of Kansas; William, of Blue Mound township; Mary, the wife of Lewis Bailey, of Blue Mound township; Charles, of Decatur; Samuel, of Blue Mound township; Bettina, the wife of Eugene Weiffenbach, president of a college at Warrenton, Missouri; David, of Blue Mound township; and Ferdinand H., our subject.

Educated in the district schools, the subject of this review grew up under the direction of his father who early taught him the various duties pertaining to the farm. He remained under the parental roof until twenty-five years of age and then, having married, he settled on one hundred and seventy acres of land on section 10, Blue Mound township, where he has since lived. This place was given to him by his father, who purchased it from John Sleeter. Mr. Pistorius and his family occupy a beautiful residence and he has made many improvements, building corn-cribs, implement sheds, etc., so that he now owns one of the desirable farms of Macon county. In addition to raising cereals he handles live-stock quite extensively and, as he is a man of good judgment, his efforts have met with a gratifying degree of success.

On the 5th day of March, 1902, Mr. Pistorius was united in marriage to Miss Edith Fieker, who was born in Shelby county, Illinois, March 5, 1883. She is a daughter of Christian and Martha (Brink) Fieker, the father having been born in Germany in 1846 and the mother in Washington county, Illinois, in 1854. They lived for a number of years upon a farm in Shelby county but are now retired and make their home at Rockville, Missouri. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Fieker, seven of whom are now living: Arthur, a resident of Rockville, Missouri; Annie, the wife of Otto Ludwig, also of Rockville; Edith, now Mrs. Pistorius; and Bertha, Theodore, Frederick and Reuben, all of Rockville. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Pistorius: Juanita Jewel, born March 17, 1904; and Donald Fieker, born September 7, 1906. Henry Miller, an uncle of our subject, served as a captain in the Civil war, and now lives at Urbana, Illinois. Frederick Miller, another uncle, lost his life in battle for the Union.

An adherent of the republican party, Mr. Pistorius stanchly supports its candidates and is at present serving as school director. He and his wife are active members of the German Methodist church and are liberal contributors toward its support. He inherited many of the noble traits of his father and has for years been known as one of the influential men of Blue Mound township. He is a good farmer, a clear-headed business man and a citizen who never hesitates to render assistance to any worthy cause. It is men of this calibre that give solidity and strength to the state and ensure the permanency of free institutions.

CHARLES C. Le FORGEE.

Charles C. Le Forgee, senior partner of the law firm of Le Forgee, Vail & Miller, has during the years of his active connection with the Macon county bar been associated with some of the most important civil and criminal law cases tried in the courts of this district. His constantly expanding powers have made him a man of pronounced ability in his chosen field of labor and he is now regarded as an able and conscientious minister in the temple of justice who, while devoted to the interests of his clients, never forgets that he owes a still higher allegiance to the majesty of the law.

Mr. Le Forgee was born in Decatur in 1867 and is a son of Jesse and Julia A. E. (Smallwood) Le Forgee. The father was a native of Fleming county, Kentucky, born January 1, 1833. The family, as the name indicates, is of French origin and was founded in Kentucky by Abraham Le Forgee, who emigrated from France, becoming one of the pioneer settlers of the city of Blue Licks. The great-grandfather was Abner Le Forgee, a native of Kentucky, whose son, Ayres Le Forgee, was born in Fleming county, Kentucky, in August, 1795. After arriving at years of maturity he married Dorinda Cassidy, a daughter of Michael Cassidy, who was born in Dublin, Ireland, and at the age of fourteen years crossed the Atlantic to the new world, settling in Kentucky. He served with the American troops in the Revolutionary war from the battle of Lexington until the colonies had achieved their independence. He bore all of the hardships and trials which came to the soldiers during that long struggle. On one occasion he had his feet frozen and several times was wounded by the Indians. After the war he settled in Kentucky, entering three thousand acres of government land in Fleming and Nicholas counties. He became a man of notable prominence and activity in that state. He was elected to the Kentucky legislature, serving for fifteen terms, and was also a member of the state senate for two terms. He often bore active part in shaping the legislation of Kentucky, leaving the impress of his individuality for good upon the framing of the laws of that commonwealth. His death occurred in 1815. In religious belief he had always been a Presbyterian. It was his daughter, Dorinda, who became the wife of Ayres Le Forgee. The latter during the greater part of his life followed the carpenter's trade and also for a number of years operated a large mill at Poplar Plains, Kentucky. He served as a soldier in the war of 1812 and afterward drew a pension from the government in recognition of the aid which he had given in that struggle. In 1856 he became a resident of Decatur where he lived retired until called to his final rest in 1870. For more than sixty years he was a devoted member of the Methodist church and his wife, who also belonged to the same church, passed away in that faith in 1868 at the age of seventy-two years. They were the parents of ten children: Martha, the wife of D. W. Litster; America, the wife of Dr. W. J. Chenoweth, of Decatur; Ayres; Jesse; Mary E., the widow of James Le Forgee; Frank; Robert; and three others who are now deceased.

Of this family Jesse Le Forgee bgecame the father of Charles C. Le Forgee, whose name introduces this review. In the town of Poplar Plains Jesse Le Forgee was reared and educated and afterward learned the wood carver's trade under the direction of his father in Wyoming, Kentucky. He came with his parents to De-

catur in 1856 and the following year he married Julia A. E. Smallwood, the wedding being celebrated July 20, 1857. Her parents were James M. and Iva (Powell) Smallwood, also pioneer residents of Macon county. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Le Forgee were born five children, but Iva, the eldest, and James, the youngest, died in infancy. Walker L., who studied medicine and was graduated from Rush Medical College of Chicago, married Miss Jessie Drake and died a month later. Dorinda C. is the wife of John E. Patterson, a real-estate dealer of Decatur; and Charles C. is the other surviving member of the family.

In politics Jesse Le Forgee was a democrat and his religious faith was that of the Christian church, in which he served as deacon for many years and otherwise took an active and helpful part in the church work. He also belonged to Celestial Lodge, No. 86, I. O. O. F., and to the Rebekah degree of that order. For more than a half century he was a resident of Decatur, where he died December 28, 1907. His widow still survives him and is one of the honored pioneer women of the county.

Charles C. Le Forgee pursued his education in the public schools of Decatur and at the age of sixteen years entered his father's office to learn the real-estate business, but at the time he attained his majority he decided to study law and pursued his reading under the preceptorship of Judge William E. Nelson. Later he entered the law department of the Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois, and was there graduated with the class of 1889. In that year he returned to his native city where he opened an office. His recognized ability has brought him into close connection with some of the important cases, both criminal and civil, that have been tried in the courts of central Illinois. In 1890 he was admitted to the Decatur bar and in 1892 he became a partner of J. C. Lee under the firm style of Le Forgee & Lee. The present firm of Le Forgee, Vail & Miller was formed in 1910 and is still occupying a commodious office on the fourth flour of the Title & Trust building. In all the intervening years since his admission to the bar he has been actively connected with the profession which has important bearing upon the progress and stable prosperity of any section or community. His is a natural discrimination as to legal ethics and he is so thoroughly well read in the law as to be able to base his arguments upon thorough knowledge of and familiarity with precedents and to present a case upon its merits, never failing to recognize the main point at issue and never neglecting to give a thorough preparation. His pleas have been characterized by a terse and decisive logic and a lucid presentation rather than by flights of oratory, and his power is the greater before court or jury from the fact that it is recognized that his aim is ever to secure justice and not to enshroud the cause in a sentimental garb of illusion, which will thwart the principles of right and equity involved.

Mr. Le Forgee was married to Miss Isabel Vennigerholz, a daughter of Julius H. and Isabel Vennigerholz. Their children are Isabel Vallette and Charles G. While a representative of one of the old families of the county, it has been his individual ability that has brought Mr. Le Forgee to his present creditable position in the ranks of the legal fraternity in Decatur.

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